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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

(N.O.M.A.)

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

Ontario

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION (N.O.M.A.)
Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder
Bay
c/o Office Services
City Hall
Thunder Bay, Ontario

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
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northwestern ontario municipal association

Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
c/o Office Services, City Hall
Thunder Bay, Ontario

PRESIDENT
W. M. Wake

SECRETARY-TREASURER
J. A. MacDonald

A BRIEF TO THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

PRESENTED BY MR. W. M. WAKE, PRESIDENT

Kenora, Ontario December 12, 1977

No. 244

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
N. C. McNeil
this 17 day of Jan 1978

B R I E F

On behalf of the Member Municipalities of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, I am pleased to submit our brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

This brief has been prepared by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (N.O.M.A.) with assistance from a consultant to inform the Royal Commission on the background, evolution, future prospects, issues and concerns of communities north of the 50th parallel and also communities south of the 50th parallel which will be affected by actions and development north of the 50th parallel.

N.O.M.A. is an association of municipalities, including cities, towns, townships and improvement districts in the District of Kenora, District of Rainy River and District of Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario. It is 175,580 square miles in area - 42.6% of the total area of the Province of Ontario. It has a fairly sparse population, however, with a total of only 195,000 people in the 47 organized municipalities that comprise the N.O.M.A. membership.

Over the years, many studies and task forces have been addressed to Northern Ontario and its problems and potentials.

The Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is viewed by some as "just another study". Justice Hartt has indicated, however, that this Commission has an open mind and wants to hear the views and feelings of the people, even if they have been stated before.

About 5 years ago, the government of Ontario announced that studies were being made to consider the harvesting of additional timber resources in Northwestern Ontario. Proposals were requested for the utilization of the timber in an area comprising about 19,000 square miles north of the line between Red Lake and Pickle Lake. The Reed Paper Company responded to this request and proposed a forest products complex in the Ear Falls - Red Lake area. Originally, an Inquiry was to be conducted under the Environmental Assessment Act. However, on July 13, 1977, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment was created by an Order in Council. This Royal Commission was given much broader terms of reference than was contemplated in the original Inquiry.

N.O.M.A. was established to provide a forum for discussion of common interests among the municipal officials of the

organized municipalities in the Districts of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Rainy River. One of its goals is to provide a single voice in negotiations with the Province. Through its membership of appointed and elected officials, N.O.M.A. speaks for approximately 195,000 people; 11,000 of these are in communities north of the 50th parallel, in the following six municipalities:

- Improvement District of Balmertown
- Township of Ear Falls
- Improvement District of Nakina
- Improvement District of Pickle Lake
- Township of Red Lake
- Town of Sioux Lookout

All of the above are in the District of Kenora, except Nakina, which is in the District of Thunder Bay.

The terms of reference for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment specifically refers to development north of the 50th parallel and the interests and views of the people in municipalities north of 50^{o}. It is obvious, though, that many other municipalities located near the 50th parallel, or which act as processing centres for natural resources that were extracted or harvested

north of it, and major service centres for the area north of 50°, will have a vital interest in new development and the management of industry and natural resources in the study area. It is felt, therefore, that N.O.M.A. is an organization that can give very valuable input to the Commission.

Our brief sets out a brief historical background of the area represented by N.O.M.A., a detailed description of the municipalities located north of 50°, the issues and concerns of the people in the N.O.M.A. area as perceived by their elected and appointed officials, and recommendations for future studies to answer some of the existing questions and provide guidance for future action. One of the stated purposes for the Commission is to "contribute to a better understanding of the ~~special~~ specific nature of the north relative to development and environmental assessment". It is hoped that this brief will assist in achieving this goal.

A questionnaire was mailed to the municipal councils and boards of trustees of the organizations comprising N.O.M.A. This produced information and opinions on various issues, including economics, industrial development, the environment,

social and cultural concerns, government policies and programmes, and the role of the Commission. This questionnaire was sent to all N.O.M.A. members north and south of the 50th parallel in order to gauge the perceived effect on municipalities south of 50°, of development north of 50°. These results were tabulated and a seminar of N.O.M.A. members was conducted in Thunder Bay on November 19, 1977 for the purpose of reviewing the results of the questionnaire and further identifying the views and positions of the members.

The questionnaire was designed by a consultant but time did not permit the questionnaire to be tested prior to distribution among the N.O.M.A. members. More accurate data could perhaps have been collected and the questionnaire could have been designed to elicit more specific answers. It would also have been beneficial to have this questionnaire reviewed by the respective Councils at open Council Meetings which involved public participation. Time, however, did not permit any of these. But, it is felt that the responses obtained in the questionnaire and subsequently expanded upon at the seminar of N.O.M.A. members fairly represents the view of the majority of the members.

In our formal brief, we have listed for the Commission, a detailed summary of the opinions and issues identified by the N.O.M.A. members. The information presented includes discussions on the life style in the communities in Northwestern Ontario, the problems faced by their residents and identifies certain issues for further consideration by the Commission. Subjects covered include education, health, communication facilities, transportation, work force and unemployment, housing, municipal services, social problems, existing industrial development and future potential, environmental concerns and financial and economic matters. This analysis includes a discussion onthe role of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment and its terms of reference.

In connection with the role of the Royal Commission, it was determined that many member communities are not fully aware of the Commission's mandate. It is hoped that this brief which has been distributed to all our members, will help to resolve that problem. Members were asked to indicate the issues which they felt should be considered by the Royal Commission in the future. Those issues most often stated included:

(1) Northern Development

(2) Environmental Protection

(3) Native People and Native Rights

(4) Future Employment Opportunities

The majority of our member municipalities agreed that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is needed at this time, but many included the comment that they hope the Commission's report would result in positive action to the benefit of the north and provide a basis for ongoing study and improvement.

Our brief contains a further analysis of the questionnaire results by geographic areas. The responses were divided into three groups representing those communities lying north of the 50th parallel, a second group of communities who act as service areas or contain primary industry related to the natural resources lying north of the 50th parallel, and the third group of communities comprising those service centres that act as major focal points for the north and other municipalities situated close by.

On November 19th, N.O.M.A. members attended a seminar in Thunder Bay to review the results of the questionnaire.

Our brief includes a summary of the results of that workshop including a discussion of the major issues identified by our members. These issues include our concerns related to economic and financial matters, social and cultural conditions, environmental concerns, and current government policies.

At this time, I would like to read into the record, the conclusions and recommendations listed in our brief for the benefit of this meeting:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

N.O.M.A. anticipated that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment will proceed with a more detailed investigation of the issues identified in this brief. Should the Commission consider it advisable, N.O.M.A. would be pleased to participate in these further investigations. This participation could be carried out either directly with the Commission or through the Municipal Advisory Committee.

In considering the issues identified, N.O.M.A. has certain specific recommendations to make at this time, although it is recognized that some modification of these recommendations will result from further investigation and a better understanding of the issues involved.

A) ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL ISSUES

(1) New formulas must be established in order that residents and industries located in unorganized areas contribute their fair share to services provided at the expense of organized municipalities.

(2) New formulas must be established to provide adequate revenues to organized municipalities to provide a

minimum level of service to the public at costs consistent with those enjoyed by Southern Ontario municipalities. This minimum level in service should include roads, municipal services, health, education, cultural and recreational facilities.

(3) A greater proportion of Provincial revenues directed to municipalities should be unconditional. Each municipality should be permitted to establish its own priorities beyond the level of minimum servicing standards.

(4) Regulations with respect to mining taxes should be amended to permit tax write-offs to mining companies for social capital investment.

(5) Local populations and municipalities should be permitted to participate in the negotiation process together with government and industry in order to identify and to achieve trade-offs to the betterment of the local area.

(6) More pressure should be applied to the Federal Government to negotiate for changes in international tariff agreements in order to eliminate

the adverse effect on potential for further processing of raw materials in this country. Vivid examples of this exist in the Kimberly-Clark operation at Terrace Bay, the American Can operation at Marathon, and the Pluswood operation at Atikokan. Many more examples exist in the mining industry.

(7) There should be greater public awareness of the inequitable tariff arrangements which affect potential economic growth of this area.

(8) More attention should should be paid to the best use of natural resources and strategies which would encourage perpetual utilization of renewable resources. More research should be given to better utilization of the by-products of the mining industry including the production of crushed aggregates for construction purposes. More improvements are needed in timber harvesting procedures to ensure that the most efficient use is made of all timber in a given cutting area and that unnecessary damage to immature trees is reduced.

(9) Government policies with respect to the development of tourism should be directed to encourage that type of tourism which best benefits the local economy. Policies with respect to the development of summer cottage area should be more flexible as this has been identified as a major potential for revenue for this area.

(10) Government policies with respect to the utilization of natural resources north of the 50th parallel should be directed in such a way as to reinforce the general economy of the area and, at the same time contribute to the stability of all of Northwestern Ontario. New development should be evaluated on a number of factors including the manner in which it will contribute to the local economy, reduce freight rates, and provide more link road connections in Northern Ontario to encourage tourism. A full appraisal of an industry's contribution to the life style of the local population and its impact on existing municipalities should be made.

(11) Government programs, designed to ease unemployment or to stimulate the local economy, should be designed to meet the needs and priorities of municipalities.

Government assistance should be directed toward block funding of municipal projects or to help establish permanent jobs in the private or public sector.

B) SOCIAL & CULTURAL ISSUES

(1) Establish a vehicle to permit full communication and co-operation between the three levels of government and the native people. Identify and determine solutions for problems based on a complete understanding of the situation by all parties.

(2) Provide secondary education, at least to the grade 10 level, locally, in all municipalities.

(3) Provide some vocational training, consistent with local needs, throughout the area, perhaps on a rotating basis.

(4) Co-ordinate vocational training programs on a Federal-Provincial basis to provide the best

mutual benefit to populations in organized and unorganized municipalities as well as to the native bands.

(5) Restructure the Wintario and other grant programmes to recognize the higher construction costs, lack of accessibility to corporate donations, and smaller populations which prevail throughout Northwestern Ontario.

(6) Provide incentives to encourage the implementation of cable television or additional local transmission facilities to expand radio and television programming throughout Northwestern Ontario.

(7) Revise the criteria with respect to the delivery of social services to ensure that the minimum level of service delivered is reasonably consistent with local needs.

(8) Allow the municipalities more authority with respect to the administration of welfare.

C) ENVIRONMENTAL

(1) Government policy with respect to environmental control measures should be more flexible. Controls should be specific to individual sites and developments and should incorporate local input into decisions which will affect the life style of the people of the area.

(2) Planning policies should largely represent the goals and objectives of local municipalities and residents of each area. Policies related to servicing, housing and land use should be formulated taking into account the particular situation of each local area in addition to the general situation with respect to population, remote location and severe climate which prevails throughout Northern Ontario.

(3) The establishment, make-up, operation, and area under jurisdiction of local planning boards, should be largely the product of the wishes of the residents of the local area, based on general goals and objectives established by the Province.

(4) Ensure that the residue of resource extraction industries including tailings areas, gravel pits, mine shafts and headframes, and abandoned dwellings and industrial buildings are removed upon the winding up of the activity.

(5) Permit controlled burning, as an option to sanitary landfill, where this represents little hazard to the environment.

(6) Provide better public education of environmental matters to permit a better understanding of the acceptable levels of contamination, and other trade-offs, related to industrial activity.

(7) Demand that Federal, Provincial and private landfill operations comply with the same regulations as those which apply to municipalities.

On behalf of the N.O.M.A. Executive and our Member Municipalities, I wish to thank you for the funding from your Commission which has made the preparation of this brief possible.

As representatives of the residents of Northwestern Ontario, we look forward, with interest, to your interim report and would be very pleased to offer further assistance to the Commission, during the Formal Hearings, should this be desired.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

(N.O.M.A.)

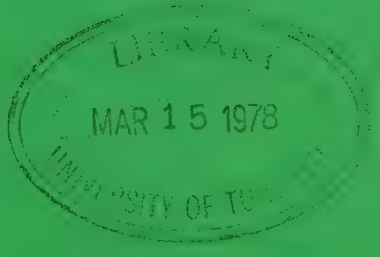
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PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978





ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
(N.O.M.A.)

ADDENDUM

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
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ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4W 1A5

northwestern ontario municipal association

A BRIEF to the ROYAL COMMISSION on the NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT



December 1977

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

BRIEF TO

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

northwestern ontario municipal association

Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

c/o Office Services, City Hall
Thunder Bay, Ontario

PRESIDENT
W. M. Wake

SECRETARY-TREASURER
J. A. MacDonald

12 December 1977

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment,
Manulife Centre,
Suite 801,
55 Bloor Street West,
Toronto, Ontario.
M4W 1A5

Attention: Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt
Commissioner

Dear Sir:

We are very pleased to submit this brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

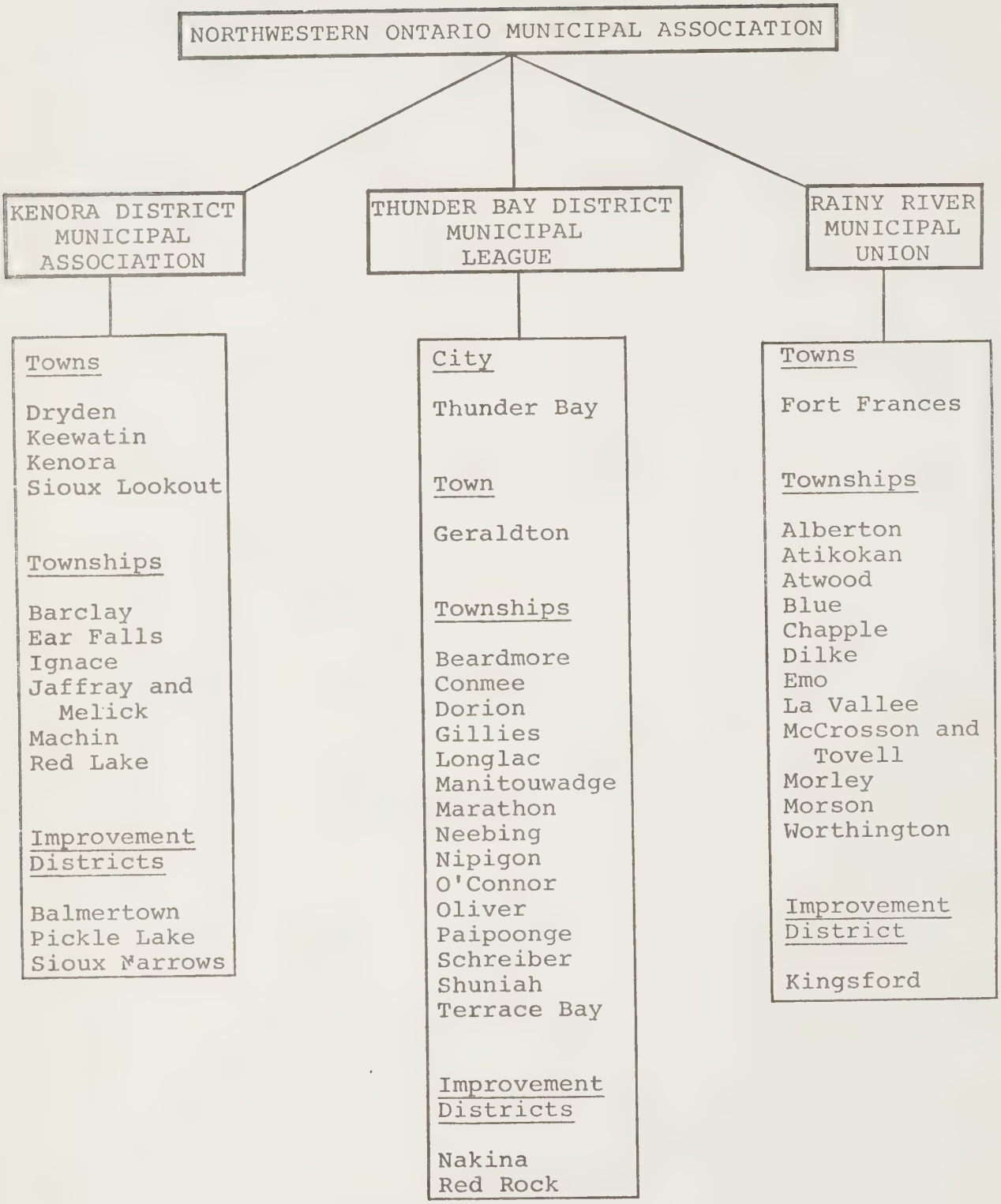
We feel that it fairly represents the opinion of the majority of the members of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. We hope that it will be of value to you and we will be very pleased to offer further assistance if you require it.

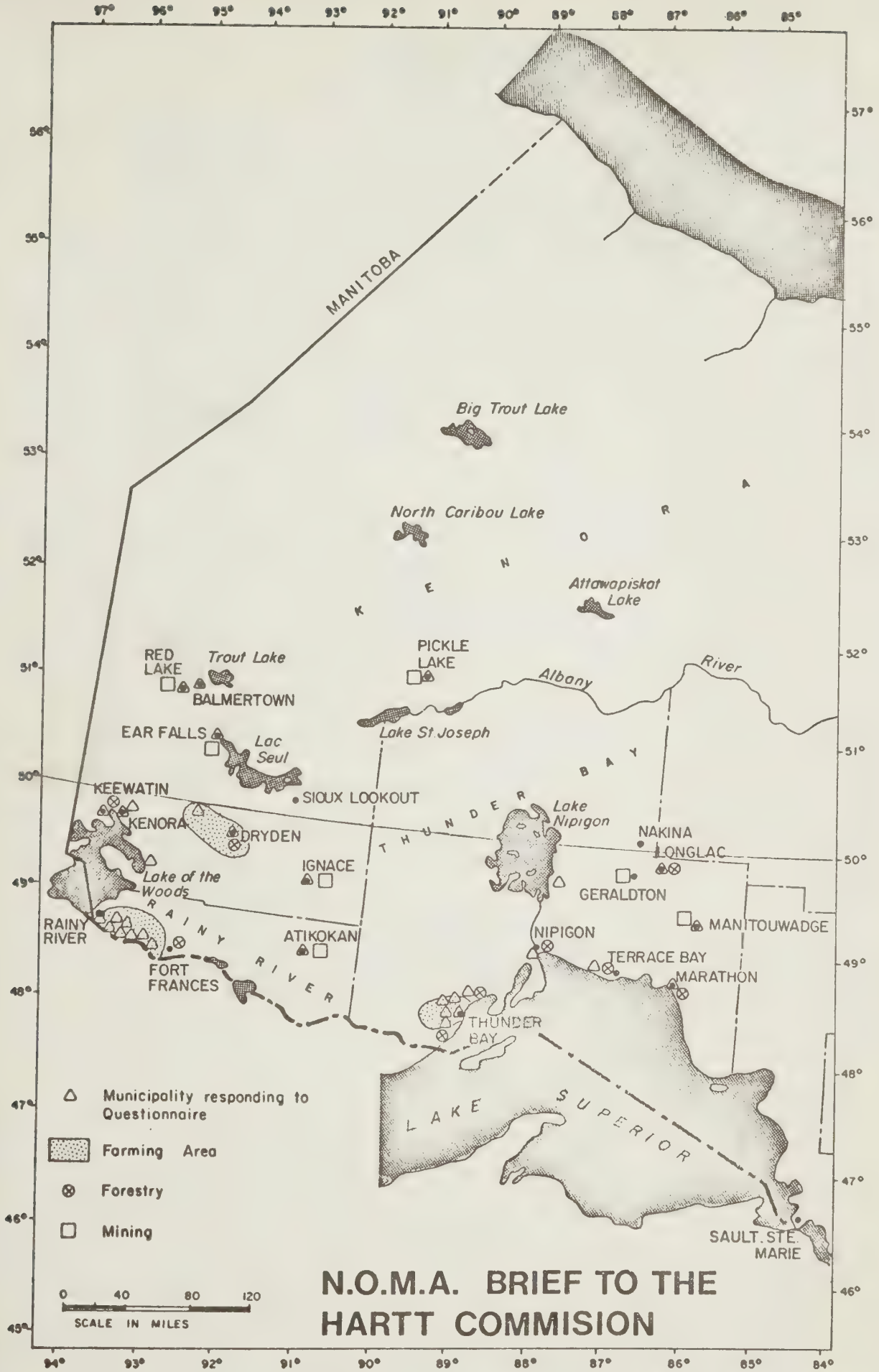
On behalf of the Executive and Member Municipalities, I wish to thank you for the funding from your Commission which has made the preparation of this brief possible.

As representatives of the residents of Northwestern Ontario, we look forward, with interest, to your interim report and to participating in the Formal Hearings which are contemplated for early 1978.

Yours very truly,

W. M. Wake, President
Northwestern Ontario
Municipal Association


NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
KENORA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RAINY RIVER MUNICIPAL UNION
Towns
Dryden
Keewatin
Kenora
Sioux Lookout
Townships
Barclay
Ear Falls
Ignace
Jaffray and Melick
Machin
Red Lake
Improvement Districts
Balmertown
Pickle Lake
Sioux Narrows
City
Thunder Bay
Town
Geraldton
Townships
Beardmore
Conmee
Dorion
Gillies
Longlac
Manitouwadge
Marathon
Neebing
Nipigon
O'Connor
Oliver
Paipoonge
Schreiber
Shuniah
Terrace Bay
Improvement Districts
Nakina
Red Rock
Towns
Fort Frances
Townships
Alberton
Atikokan
Atwood
Blue
Chapple
Dilke
Emo
La Vallee
McCrosson and Tovell
Morley
Morson
Worthington
Improvement District
Kingsford



N.O.M.A. BRIEF TO THE HARTT COMMISION

Plate No. 1

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SUMMARY

SUMMARY

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (N.O.M.A.) is composed of the forty-seven (47) cities, towns, townships and improvement districts in the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario. Settlements and reserves in unorganized territories are not members of N.O.M.A.

The people in Northwestern Ontario like living here. They like the small town way of life, the friendliness and hospitality of their neighbours and the charm of the people. They value highly the clean environment, the great outdoors, the rural and wilderness areas.

They are dissatisfied with some things though. The most important source of frustration is the relationship with the Provincial Government. Very often, legislation, regulations and controls are established without consultation or an understanding of the people, the area and the way of life. The members of N.O.M.A. strongly request that the necessary changes be made immediately to insure that the people of the North-West participate in future government actions which will affect the lives of the people.

Many issues are raised in this brief. They have been arranged under headings of Economic and Financial, Social and Cultural and Environmental concerns.

1. Economic and Financial Issues

   The people in the North-West contribute handsomely to the economy of Ontario and Canada. There is a strong feeling that existing funding arrangements between the Provincial and Municipal governments should be changed. Because many of the natural resource related industries are in unorganized territories, municipalities that service these industries do

not directly benefit from a tax point of view, even though they must carry the burden of the cost. Transfer payments to municipalities should be re-organized in order that municipalities can perform effective long-term financial management without having to suffer the current embarrassment of travelling to Toronto several times a year asking for "handouts."

New formulas must be established to provide adequate revenues to organized municipalities to provide a minimum level of service to the public at costs consistent with those enjoyed by Southern Ontario municipalities. The minimum level in service should include roads and municipal services, health, education, cultural and recreational facilities.

A greater proportion of Provincial revenues directed to municipalities should be unconditional. Each municipality should be permitted to establish its own priorities beyond the level of minimum servicing standards.

A recent change in a regulation with respect to The Mining Tax Act prevents mining companies from writing off costs associated with the construction of social facilities, such as arenas, curling rinks, halls, etc. Because of this, the mines may no longer perform this service to a municipality. In small single-resource communities this could have a significant effect on the social lives of the people. This regulation must be amended as soon as possible.

Local people and municipal governments should be permitted to participate in the negotiation process together with government and industry in order to identify trade-offs for the betterment of the local area.

International tariff agreements should be revised in order to eliminate the adverse effect on potential for further processing of raw materials in this country. At the present time, many natural resource materials are only partially processed in this country because the tariffs are much lower if the product is not a finished one. This eliminates many potential jobs in primary and secondary industries.

More attention should be paid to the best use of natural resources and strategies which would encourage perpetual utilization of renewable resources. More research should be undertaken to achieve better utilization of the by-products of the mining industry, including the production of crushed aggregates for construction purposes. Forest harvesting should be carried out to make the most efficient use of timber in all cutting areas and in such a manner to eliminate unnecessary damage to immature trees.

Government policies with respect to the development of tourism should be directed to encourage that type of tourism that best benefits the local economy.

Great dissatisfaction has been voiced in regard to the present criteria for the development of summer cottage areas for local residents. At present, the majority of lakefront properties are either Crown lands or patented mining claims. The surface rights to mining claims are very difficult to obtain and Crown lands are available by lease only, at a controlled rate. It is incredible that with the vast area in the North-West, with thousands of beautiful lakes and rivers, local people very often are unable to purchase a lot for a cottage in the area of their choice.

New development should be evaluated by a number of factors, including the manner in which it will contribute to the local economy, provide more link road connections, reduce freight rates and encourage tourism. A full appraisal of an industry's contribution to the lifestyle of the local population and its impact on existing municipalities should be made.

Government programmes designed to ease unemployment or to stimulate the local economy should be designed to meet the needs and priorities of the municipalities and should be the result of discussion and consultation with the municipalities. Funding and transfer payments should be directed toward block funding of municipal projects or to help establish permanent jobs in the private or public sector.

2. Social and Cultural Issues

It is anticipated that in the future, more and more native people will choose to live in municipalities in the North-West. A vehicle is required to permit better communication and co-operation between the three levels of government and the native people. Careful attention should be paid to this issue in the future in order that solutions can be determined for problems based on a complete understanding of the situation by all parties.

Since many of the municipalities have too small a population to support a high school, consideration should be given to providing secondary education at least to the grade 10 level locally in all municipalities. Vocational training programmes consistent with local needs should be established

throughout the area. These should be co-ordinated on a Federal/Provincial basis to provide the best mutual benefit to populations in organized and unorganized palities as well as to the native people on reserves.

Wintario and other grant programmes should be re-structured to recognize the higher construction costs, lack of accessibility to corporate donations and smaller populations which prevail throughout Northwestern Ontario.

Current radio and television regulations should be reviewed and revised to accommodate the special needs of Northwestern Ontario. Some private communication facilities have been forced to cease operation because of regulations that are likely proper in Southern Ontario but don't make sense in the North. There have been many requests for incentives and assistance in the implementation of cable television and additional local transmission facilities to expand radio and television programming throughout the North-West.

The criteria for delivery of social services should be reviewed and revised to insure that the minimum level of service delivered is consistent with local needs. Local municipalities should have more authority with respect to the administration of welfare.

3. Environmental Issues

Government policy with respect to environmental control measures should be more flexible. Controls should be specific to individual sites and developments and should incorporate local input into decisions which will affect the lifestyle of the people in the area.

Planning policies should represent the goals and objectives of local municipalities and residents of each area. Policies related to servicing, housing and land use should be formulated, taking into account the particular requirements of the municipality, in addition to the general situation with respect to sparse population, remote location and severe climate which prevails throughout Northern Ontario.

The establishment, make-up, operation and area under jurisdiction of local planning boards should be the product of the wishes of the residents of the local area, based on general goals and objectives established by the Province.

Policies should be established and funding should be provided to clean up the residue of resource extraction industries, including tailing areas, mine shafts,gravel pits, head frames, and abandoned dwellings and industrial buildings which remain at sites which are no longer active.

Air pollution controls should be revised to permit controlled burning as an option to sanitary land fill where this represents little hazzard to the environment or the people in the area. At the present time, Federal, Provincial and private land fill operations are not subject to the same regulations as those which apply to municipalities. This is unfair, inconsistent and must be changed.

Better public education in environmental matters is required in order to permit a better understanding of the acceptable levels of contamination and other trade-offs related to industrial activity.

In summary, major industrial development should occur north of the 50th parallel. It will be very important that development be conducted on an environmentally sound and practical basis. It will also be very important that financial structuring of the municipalities be rearranged to provide for an equitable relationship between the new industries and the municipalities that will be required to service them.

This brief is respectfully submitted by N.O.M.A. to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. It is hoped that it will be of assistance to the Commission in achieving a better understanding of the area and the needs of the people for a better future.

I INTRODUCTION

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This brief has been prepared by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (N.O.M.A.) with assistance from a consultant to inform the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment on the background, evolution, future prospects, issues and concerns of communities north of the 50th parallel and also communities south of the 50th parallel which will be affected by actions and development north of the 50th parallel.

N.O.M.A. is an association of municipalities, including cities, towns, townships and improvement districts in the District of Kenora, District of Rainy River and District of Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario. It is 175,580 square miles in area - 42.6% of the total area of the Province of Ontario. It has a fairly sparse population, however, with a total of only 195,000 people in the 47 organized municipalities that comprise the N.O.M.A. membership.

Over the years, many studies and task forces have been addressed to Northern Ontario and its problems and potentials. The Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is viewed by some as "just another study". Justice Hartt has indicated, however, that this Commission has an open mind and wants to hear the views and feelings of the people, even if they have been stated before.

About 5 years ago, the government of Ontario announced that studies were being made to consider the harvesting of additional timber resource in Northwestern Ontario. Proposals were requested for the utilization of the timber in an area comprising about 19,000 square miles north of the line between Red Lake and Pickle Lake. The Reed Paper Company responded to this request and proposed a forest products complex in the Ear Falls - Red Lake area. Originally, an Inquiry was to be

conducted under the Environmental Assessment Act. However, on July 13, 1977, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment was created by Order in Council No. 1900/77. This Royal Commission was given much broader terms of reference than was contemplated in the original Inquiry.

The Commission's Mandate is as follows:

(a) To determine the effects on the environment of major enterprises north of the 50th parallel;

(b) To investigate the feasibility of alternative uses of natural resources;

(c) To suggest ways and means of assessing and deciding on environmental aspects of major enterprises.

The word "environment" in this context has a very broad meaning and the enterprises to be considered include Reed's proposal but also include (but are not limited to) the following: hydro electric power supply, gas and oil pipelines, communications, transportation (air, rail and road), mineral extraction, forestry, etc..

In an information circular dated 24th October, 1977, from the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, the following statement is made:

> "The Commission hopes to receive written and oral submissions from all larger communities near or north of 50^{o}. It also hopes to receive written submissions from smaller communities or some of their residents or their representatives. The Commission expects to receive submissions from organizations representing regions or a number of communities or their local government; such as, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Grand Council Treaty #3, the Federation of Northern Ontario

Municipalities and the Grand Council Treaty #9. Submissions from other organizations with local mandates such as Chambers of Commerce are also anticipated.

The Commission would like to learn more about the background, evolution, future prospects, issues and concerns of communities north of 50° as seen by their residents or representatives. Their submissions could help make bare statistics on population, industry and employment alive for both the Commission and the people of Ontario. The Commission would like to learn how communities have come to exist, what sustains them now, and could sustain them in the future. Communities in the north depend to a great extent on resource development and government, and the consequences of this for northern residents is one matter that ought to be addressed by communities when making submissions at the November meetings. Advice is also sought on how the Commission should conduct its enquiries."

On October 19, 1977, a member of the N.O.M.A. executive (Mr. W. D'Arcy Halligan) and two representatives of the consultant (Mr. K. A. Hyde and Mr. Ian Butler) met with Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt (Chairman) and Mr. Ola Berg (Executive Director) to discuss the purpose, terms of reference and request for funding for the preparation of this brief. A written proposal was presented on that date and approval for the funding was granted on October 20, 1977.

N.O.M.A. was established to provide a forum for discussion of common interests among the municipal officials of the organized municipalities in the Districts of Kenora, Thunder Bay and Rainy River. One of its goals is to provide a single

voice in negotiations with the Province. Through its member-elected officials, N.O.M.A. speaks for approximately 195,000 people; 11,000 of these are in communities north of the 50th parallel, in the following six municipalities:

- Improvement District of Balmertown
- Township of Ear Falls
- Improvement District of Nakina
- Improvement District of Pickle Lake
- Township of Red Lake
- Town of Sioux Lookout

All of the above are in the District of Kenora, except Nakina, which is in the District of Thunder Bay.

The terms of reference for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment specifically refers to development north of the 50th parallel and the interests and views of the people in municipalities north of 50°. It is obvious though that many other municipalities located near the 50th parallel or which act as processing centres for natural resources that were extracted or harvested north of it and major service centres for the area north of 50° will have a vital interest in new development and the management of industry and natural resources in the study area. It is felt, therefore, that N.O.M.A. is an organization that can give very valuable input to the Commission.

The report will set out a brief historical background of the area represented by N.O.M.A., a detailed description of the municipalities lying within the study area, the issues and concerns of the people in the N.O.M.A. area as perceived by their elected and appointed officials and recommendations for future studies to answer some of the existing questions and provide guidance for future action. One of the stated purposes for the Commission is to "contribute to a better understanding of the special nature of the north relative to development and

environmental assessment". It is hoped that this brief will assist in achieving this goal.

A questionnaire (Appendix A) was mailed to the municipal councils and boards of trustees of the organizations comprising N.O.M.A. This produced information and opinions on various issues, including economics, industrial development, the environment, social and cultural concerns, government policies and programmes, the role of the Commission, etc. This questionnaire was sent to all N.O.M.A. members north and south of the 50th parallel in order to gauge the perceived effect on municipalities south of 50° of development north of 50°. These results were tabulated and a seminar of N.O.M.A. members was conducted in Thunder Bay on November 19, 1977 for the purpose of reviewing the results of the questionnaire and further identifying the views and positions of the members.

The questionnaire was designed by the consultant but time did not permit the questionnaire to be tested prior to distribution among the N.O.M.A. members. More accurate data could perhaps have been collected and the questionnaire could have been designed to elicit more specific answers. It would also have been beneficial to have this questionnaire reviewed by the respective Councils at open Council Meetings which involved public participation. Time, however, did not permit any of these. But it is still felt that the responses obtained in the questionnaire and subsequently expanded upon at the seminar of N.O.M.A. members fairly represents the view of the majority of the members.

II HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF N.O.M.A. AREA

II HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF N.O.M.A. AREA

Despite its relatively short history of modern settlement, archaeological evidence suggests that the first inhabitants in Northwestern Ontario arrived some 9,000 years ago following the retreat of the last continental glacier. Over the intervening 8,700 years prior to the arrival of Europeans into the area, these early inhabitants grew in number and developed significant cultural similarities with two major subgroups, the Ojibwa and the Cree being clearly distinguishable by the 17th century. The Ojibwa generally occupied the pre-cambrian shield area of most of Northwestern Ontario while the Cree occupied the Hudson Bay Lowlands and James Bay areas.

Upon the arrival of the European fur traders in the late 17th century, the Cree banded to ally with the English who entered the area from Hudson Bay while the Ojibwa found themselves allied with the French who followed the route of the Great Lakes in their pursuit of western furs. The fur trade was to be the main commercial activity in the region until the late 1800's and was responsible for the development of many of the early settlements, including Fort William, Fort Frances and Kenora.

The 75 years between 1850 and 1925 was a period of rapid transition for Northwestern Ontario. The year 1855 saw the completion of the Sault Ste. Marie canal and the introduction of direct shipping from Prince Arthur's Landing (Port Arthur) to southern Ontario ports. Settlers heading west to the prairies passed through the area in large numbers developing such facilities as the Dawson Trail to facilitate their move.

The 1800's saw the initial development of railways in the area in the form of the C.P.R. mainline which was the first transcontinental rail line in Canada. The Port Arthur - Duluth rail

line, which was never completed, followed shortly as did the C.N.R. mainline in the early 1900's. Numerous settlements were established along these transportation routes to service both vehicles and passengers and the area became more accessible than at any time in its past. Although small in size, many of these rail towns are still in existence today with many having provided a focal point for additional resource development in the area.

Some early attempts at mining were initiated in the late 1800's with names such as Silver Islet and Silver Mountain in the Thunder Bay area being two of the more popular diggings. Mining was not to prove a significant factor in regional settlement, however, until after the 1922 discovery of Gold at Red Lake. Consequent development of the resource as well as additional gold deposits at Pickle Lake, Geraldton and Beardmore saw significant increases in the improvement of road and air access into the region and ultimately resulted in increased interest in the area by other natural resource extractive industries. Mining activities have expanded rapidly in the area and include extraction of iron ore and copper deposits as well as gold. Additional resources have been identified in the area although current world market conditions and high development costs have appeared to at least temporarily stall new developments.

Demands for lumber in the West and newsprint in the South saw development of lumbering and pulp and paper industries in Northwestern Ontario during the early 1900's. Initially, mills were established at Thunder Bay, Dryden, Fort Frances and Kenora with later mills locating at Red Rock, Terrace Bay and Marathon. More recently, the increasing markets for plywood and other production woods has seen the development of manufacturing facilities in Longlac and Atikokan. There are still considerable advances to be expected in the wood industry in terms of

improved resource utilization and the development of fast maturing trees. Northwestern Ontario looks toward continued economic stability from its major renewable resource industry.

Although important to the supply of farm produce, local agriculture has not played a significant role in the development of Northwestern Ontario. The three major farming areas include the Slate River Valley at Thunder Bay, the Fort Frances-Rainy River area and a small clay belt around Dryden. With inclement weather conditions and poor access to markets, few farms were self-supporting. In spite of farm consolidation and modernization, the physical limitations of the landscape have continued to limit the role of agriculture in the economic development of Northwestern Ontario.

In the early 1930's, an important new industry was started. Tourism in the form of hunting and fishing came largely as a result of the introduction of air travel. Over the last 45 years, this industry has flouished and is now one of the most important in the North-West. It now caters to naturalists, campers, recreation vehicles, hunting, fishing and winter sports enthusiasts.

III COMMUNITY PROFILES OF MUNICIPALITIES NORTH OF 50°

Pickle Lake and Sioux Lookout.....Pages 9 - 17

Nakina and Ear Falls.....Pages 18 - 26

Red Lake and Balmertown.....Pages 27 - 34

III COMMUNITY PROFILES OF MUNICIPALITIES NORTH OF 50°

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
1. POPULATION	735	3110
(i) Population growth over last 10 years	Unknown	Apprdx. 450
(ii) Turnover	High	Moderate
(iii) Emigration of Young Adults	Substantial	Substantial
2. ADMINISTRATION		
(i) Form of government	Improvement District	Town
(ii) Major Projects Planned and Method of Financing	-Medical Clinic, Provincial Financing	-upgrading water system, Provincial/ Municipal financing -improvements to airport, Provincial financing -upgrading roads Provincial/ Municipal financing -N.I.P. Program Provincial/ Municipal financing

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
3. REVENUE		
(i) Total Assessment	$10,509,670.	$2,906,375.
(ii) Ratio of Commercial/ Industrial: Farming/ Residential Assessment	84:16	30:70
4. LAW ENFORCEMENT		
(i) Type	O.P.P.	O.P.P.
(ii) Size of Force	6	19
(iii) Extent of Area Served beyond Municipal Boundary	Substantial	Substantial
5. FIRE PROTECTION		
(i) No. of Personnel	18	24
6. COMMUNITY PLANNING		
(i) Local Planning Board	(T.E.I.G.A.)	YES
(ii) Official Plan	NO	Being Prepared
(iii) Zoning By-law	Being Prepared	NO

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
7. COMMUNITY SERVICES		
(i) Manpower Centre	NO	NO
(ii) No. of Social Workers	NONE	3 + Zone Hospital Staff
(iii) Total Welfare Expenditure in Community	Approx. $3,000	$119,000.
(iv) No. of individuals and families registered	NONE	10 families 21 individuals

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
8. MEDICAL FACILITIES		
(i) Hospital	NONE	1 + DIAND Zone Hospital
(ii) No. of Beds	-	52 + 70 at Zone Hospital
(iii) No. of Doctors	2	7
(iv) No. of Public Health Nurses	1 (Part-time)	1
(v) Dental Clinic	YES	YES
(vi) Medical Clinic	Out to Tender	YES
(vii) No. of Dentists	1	1
(viii) Homes for Aged	NONE	NONE
9. WATER SUPPLY		
(i) Source	Municipal-Private	Municipal
(ii) Extent of Service	75% of townsite serviced	100% of townsite serviced.
(iii) Storage Facilities	250,000 gallon standpipe	153,000 gallon standpipe
(iv) Filtration Plant	NO	NO
10. SEWAGE SYSTEM		
(i) Residential Areas Served	75%	100%
(ii) Sewage Treatment Plant	Yes, 3,500 person Capacity	Yes, 4,000 person Capacity

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
11. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL		
(i) Frequency of Collection	Residential:Weekly Commercial:Twice Weekly	Residential:Weekly Commercial:Weekly
(ii) Method of Disposal	Trenches and Filling	Landfill
12. HOUSING		
(i) Apartment Units	44 (owned by UMEX)	26(Senior Citizens) + 60 Apartments
(ii) Availability of Serviced Building Lots	NONE	10 Vacant
(iii) Subdivision Lots under draft plan	81	82
13. EDUCATION		
(i) Public - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	1-175/270	2-517/737
(ii) Special Schools	NONE	1 for the mentally retarded
(iii) Separate - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	NONE	1-204/390
(iv) High School No. Enrollment/ Capacity	NONE	1-456/570 (Vocational, Industrial training at high school)

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
13. EDUCATION (Cont'd)		
(v) Religious Schools	NONE	NONE
(vi) Extension Courses	Lakehead University Confederation Coll.	Lakehead University Confederation Coll.
(vii) Vocational Industrial Training	NO	YES
(viii) Library	NO	YES
14. COMMUNICATIONS		
(i) Local Newspaper	NONE	One daily
(ii) Radio	C.B.C.	C.B.C.
(iii) Television	C.B.C. Winnipeg	C.B.C. Winnipeg
(iv) Availability of Cable	NONE	NONE
(v) Quality of Reception	Good	Good

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
15. EMPLOYMENT		
(i) Total	280	N/A
(ii) Male	N/A	N/A
(iii) Female	N/A	N/A
(iv) Major Employers	UMEX 150 Employees	CNR 270 Employees Department of National Defence 150 Employees Department of Indian and Northern Affairs 40 Employees Zone Hospital 150 Employees McKenzie Forest Products 150 Employees M.N.R. 50 Employees
16. UTILITIES AND POWER		
(i) Telephone	Bell Canada	Bell Canada
(ii) Quality of Service	Good	Good
(iii) Tele-communications	C.N.C.P.	C.N.C.P.
(iv) Electrical Source	Ontario Hydro	Ontario Hydro
(v) Availability	Good	Good
(vi) Reliability	Good	Good

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
17. OTHER ENERGY SUPPLIES		
(i) Natural Gas	NO	NO
(ii) Propane and Fuel Oil	YES	YES
18. TRANSPORTATION		
(i) Street Type and Condition	Gravel Good Condition	Paved and Gravel Good Condition
(ii) Contemplated Improvements	-	Major paving program contemplated
(iii) Parking	Roadside and Shopping Centre	Roadside
(iv) Public Transport	NONE	NONE
(v) Taxi Service	YES	YES
(vi) Air Service	Daily Flights to Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Dryden and Winnipeg Charter service available	Daily Flights to Pickle Lake, Dryden, Red Lake, and several Indian reserves Charter service available
(vii) Highways	Secondary Highway 599, 808 & 646	Secondary Highways #72, 116, 642
(viii) Truck Transport	2 Local and Inter-Provincial carriers	3 Local and Inter-Provincial carriers
(ix) Passenger Bus Service	1 Busline with connections to Ignace and Thunder Bay	Charter Service Only
(x) Rail Service	NONE	CNR Mainline

FACTOR	PICKLE LAKE	SIOUX LOOKOUT
19. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
(i) Banks	1	2
(ii) Trust Companies	NONE	NONE
(iii) Finance Companies	NONE	NONE
(iv) Credit Union	NONE	1
20. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2 Justices of the Peace	1 Land Surveyor 1 Management Consultant 1 Visiting Lawyer 1 Mortician 2 Justices of Peace 2 Notaries Public
21. TOURIST ACCOMMODATION		
(i) Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Cabins	2 Hotels 1 Motel 40 Rooms	2 Hotels 4 Motels approx. 110 rooms
22. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES		
(i) Theatres	NONE	1
(ii) Churches	2	7
(iii) Child Care Centres	NONE	1 Private Nursery School
(iv) Community Centres	1 Hall	5 Halls
(v) Recreational Facilities	Public Beach being developed hunting, fishing, camping 2 Outdoor Rinks	Public Beach Nature Trails Flying Club Curling Rink Arena Bowling Alley Golf Course Museum

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
1. POPULATION	909	2,040
(i) Population growth over last 10 years	Approx. 300	Approx. 1,000
(ii) Turnover	Very Minor	Very Minor
(iii) Emigration of Young Adults	Unnoticeable	Substantial
2. ADMINISTRATION		
(i) Form of government	Board of Trustees	Township
(ii) Major Projects Planned and Method of Financing	-Corporation Subdivision financed by CMHC and Corporation -Kimberly Clark subdivision financed by Kimberly Clark -Updating sewer and water financed by M.O.E. and Corporation -Upgrading airport financed by M.T.C. and by Corporation -Expansion of school facilities and construction of library resource centre financed by Min. of Education and Corporation -Establishment of Medical Centre financed by Corporation	-Subdivision and Commercial Centre Expansion financed by Corporation -Airport financed by M.N.A.

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
3. REVENUE		
(i) Total Assessment	$699,045.	$7,679,845.
(ii) Ratio of Commercial/ Industrial: Farming/ Residential Assessment	24:76	84:16
4. LAW ENFORCEMENT		
(i) Type	O.P.P.	O.P.P.
(ii) Size of Force	3	5
(iii) Extent of Area Served beyond Municipal Boundary	Substantial	Substantial
5. FIRE PROTECTION		
(i) No. of Personnel	16	15
6. COMMUNITY PLANNING		
(i) Local Planning Board	NO	NO
(ii) Official Plan	NO	NO
(iii) Zoning By-law	YES	Being Prepared
7. COMMUNITY SERVICES		
(i) Manpower Centre	NO	NO
(ii) No. of Social Workers	1	NONE
(iii) Total Welfare Expenditure in Community	$8,100. Budget	$ 12,000.
(iv) No. of individuals and families registered	5 individuals 5 families	10 families -

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
8. MEDICAL FACILITIES		
(i) Hospital	-(Geraldton)	-(Red Lake)
(ii) No. of Beds	-	-
(iii) No. of Doctors	-	1
(iv) No. of Public Health Nurses	-	1
(v) Dental Clinic	NO	YES
(vi) Medical Clinic	YES	YES
(vii) No. of Dentists	NONE	NONE
(viii) Homes for Aged	NONE	NONE
9. WATER SUPPLY		
(i) Source	CNR System and Private (Municipal Water Supply Planned for 1978)	Municipal
(ii) Extent of Service	-	5,000 Person Capacity
(iii) Storage Facilities	NONE	500,000 gal. standpipe under construction 100,000 gal. ground storage
(iv) Filtration Plant	Partial	YES
10. SEWAGE SYSTEM		
(i) Residential Areas Served	-	100%
(ii) Sewage Treatment Plant	Plant planned for 1978	Yes, 5,000 person capacity

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
11. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL		
(i) Frequency of Collection	Residential: Weekly Commercial: Weekly	Residential: Twice Weekly Commercial: Twice Weekly
(ii) Method of Disposal	Landfill	Landfill
12. HOUSING		
(i) Apartment Units	17	87
(ii) Availability of Serviced Building Lots	NONE	141 Vacant
(iii) Subdivision Lots under draft plan	62	110
13. EDUCATION		
(i) Public - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	1-72/120	2-460/474
(ii) Special Schools	NONE	NONE
(iii) Separate-No. Enrollment/ Capacity	Combined with Public-111 Students	NONE
(iv) High school No. Enrollment/Capacity	NONE	NONE

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
13. EDUCATION (Cont'd)		
(v) Religious Schools	NONE	NONE
(vi) Extension Courses	Confederation College	Lakehead University Confederation Coll.
(vii) Vocational Industrial Training	NO	YES
(viii) Library	YES	YES
14. COMMUNICATIONS		
(i) Local newspaper	NONE	One Weekly
(ii) Radio	C.B.C.	C.B.C.
(iii) Television	C.B.C. Winnipeg	C.B.C. Winnipeg
(iv) Availability of Cable	NONE	None - Proposal Being Made
(v) Quality of Reception	Good	Good

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
15. EMPLOYMENT		
(i) Total	367	1134
(ii) Male	316	593
(iii) Female	51	541
(iv) Major Employers	Kimberly-Clark 200 employees CNR 100 employees	Griffith Mine 500 Employees Reed Paper 50 Employees Ontario Hydro 40 Employees Tourist Camps 175 Employees Boise Cascade 75 Employees
16. UTILITIES AND POWER		
(i) Telephone	Bell Canada	Bell Canada
(ii) Quality of Service	Good	Good
(iii) Tele-communications	C.N.C.P.	C.N.C.P.
(iv) Electrical Source	Ontario Hydro	Ontario Hydro
(v) Availability	Good	Good
(vi) Reliability	Good	Good
17. OTHER ENERGY SUPPLIES		
(i) Natural Gas	NO	YES
(ii) Propane and Fuel Oil	YES	YES

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
18. TRANSPORTATION		
(i) Street Type and Condition	Gravel Poor Condition	Paved and Gravel Good Condition
(ii) Contemplated Improvements	The Entire System	Major Paving Program Contemplated
(iii) Parking	Roadside Only	Roadside and Shopping Centre
(iv) Public Transport	NONE	NONE
(v) Taxi Service	YES	YES
(vi) Air Service	2 private air charter services (airport under construction in Geraldton)	Water based charter service only
(vii) Highways	Hwy. #11 Secondary Highways #584, 683, 625, 580 and 801	Secondary Highways #105, 804, 657
(viii) Truck Transport	2 Inter-Provincial Carriers	4 local and Inter-Provincial carriers
(ix) Passenger Bus Service	No Bus Service	1 Busline with connections at Vermillion Bay and Kenora
(x) Rail Service	CNR Passenger Service Twice Daily	CNR Freight Spur Line

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
19. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
(i) Banks	1	1
(ii) Trust Companies	NONE	NONE
(iii) Finance Companies	NONE	NONE
(iv) Credit Union	NONE	NONE
20. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1 Justice of the Peace	1 Visiting Lawyer
21. TOURIST ACCOMMODATION		
(i) Hotels, Motels and Tourist Cabins	1 Hotel 1 Motel 1 Tourist Home 8 Tourist Cabins 35 Rooms	2 Motels 49 Rooms
22. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES		
(i) Theatres	NONE	NONE
(ii) Churches	4	5
(iii) Child Care Centres	NONE	1 Day Care Centre

FACTOR	NAKINA	EAR FALLS
22. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)		
(iv) Community Centres	1 School Gym	1 Hall
(v) Recreational Facilities	-swimming -hunting -fishing -camping -1 outdoor skating rink -1 indoor curling rink	1 Curling Rink 1 Tennis Court Public Beach Nature Trails Museum Provincial Park hunting, fishing, camping 1 Arena

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
1. POPULATION	2290	2047
(i) Population growth over last 10 years	Approx. 250	Approx. 50
(ii) Turnover	Moderate	Moderate
(iii) Emigration of Young Adults	Substantial	Substantial
2. ADMINISTRATION		
(i) Form of government	Township	Improvement District
(ii) Major Projects Planned and Method of Financing	-Upgrading sewage and water systems financed by M.O.E. and Corporation -Official Plan and Zoning By-laws financed by M.O.H. and Corporation -Connecting Link Agreement financed by M.T.C. -Recreation Complex Financed by Province and Corporation	-Subdivision financed by Corporation -Updating of sewer and water facilities financed by M.O.E. and Corporation -Official Plan and Zoning By-laws by M.O.H. and Corporation
3. REVENUE		
(i) Total Assessment	$2,739,775.	$3,490,375.
(ii) Ratio of Commercial/ Industrial: Farming/ Residential Assessment	42:58	53:47

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
4. LAW ENFORCEMENT		
(i) Type	O.P.P.	O.P.P.(Red Lake)
(ii) Size of Force	22	-
(iii) Extent of Area Served beyond Municipal Boundary	Substantial	Substantial
5. FIRE PROTECTION		
(i) No. of Personnel	25	40
6. COMMUNITY PLANNING		
(i) Local Planning Board	YES (Joint with Balmertown)	YES (Joint with Red Lake)
(ii) Official Plan	Being Prepared	Being Prepared
(iii) Zoning By-Law	Being Prepared	Being Prepared
7. COMMUNITY SERVICES		
(i) Manpower Centre	NO	NO
(ii) No. of Social Workers	4	1
(iii) Total Welfare Expenditure in Community	$25,657.	$15,027.
(iv) No. of individuals and families registered	Approx. 30	6

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
8. MEDICAL FACILITIES		
(i) Hospital	1	- (Red Lake)
(ii) No. of beds	44	-
(iii) No. of Doctors	4	-
(iv) No. of Public Health Nurses	1	-
(v) Dental Clinic	YES	NO
(vi) Medical Clinic	YES	YES
(vii) No. of Dentists	1	- (RED LAKE)
(viii) Homes for Aged	1	1
9. WATER SUPPLY		
(i) Source	Balmertown & municipal	Private
(ii) Extent of Service	5,000 Person Capacity	Future System 5,000 Person Capacity
(iii) Storage Facilities	330,000 gal. standpipe under construction	-
(iv) Filtration Plant	Yes	Yes (Private)
10. SEWAGE SYSTEM		
(i) Residential Areas Served	60%	30%
(ii) Sewage Treatment Plant	YES	Future plant to serve 5,000 persons

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
11. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL		
(i) Frequency of Collection	Residential: Weekly Commercial: twice weekly	Residential: Weekly Commercial: Twice weekly
(ii) Method of Disposal	Landfill	Landfill
12. HOUSING		
(i) Apartment Units	105	45
(ii) Availability of Serviced Building Lots	6 vacant	NONE
(iii) Subdivision Lots under draft plan	71	675
13. EDUCATION		
(i) Public - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	1-329/432	2-378/494
(ii) Special Schools	1, training for retarded	- (Red Lake)
(iii) Separate - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	1-90/160	- (Red Lake)
(iv) High school - No. Enrollment/ Capacity	1-480/560	- (Red Lake)
(v) Religious Schools	1 Mennonite - 53/60	- (Red Lake)
(vi) Extension Courses	Lakehead University and Confederation College	Lakehead University & Confederation Coll.

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
13. EDUCATION (Cont'd)		
(vii) Vocational Industrial Training	NO	NO
(viii) Library	YES	YES
14. COMMUNICATIONS		
(i) Local Newspaper	One weekly	NONE (Red Lake)
(ii) Radio	C.B.C.	C.B.C.
(iii) Television	C.B.C. Winnipeg	C.B.C. Winnipeg
(iv) Availability of Cable	NONE	NONE
(v) Quality of Reception	Good	Good

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
15. EMPLOYMENT		
(i) Total	657	705
(ii) Male	350	654
(iii) Female	307	51
(iv) Major Employers	Township 25 Emp. MNR 31 Emp. School Bd. 74 Emp. Dickenson, Campbell & Griffith Mines	Dickenson Mines 230 employees Campbell Red Lake Mines 337 employees
16. UTILITIES AND POWER		
(i) Telephone	Bell Canada	Bell Canada
(ii) Quality of Service	Good	Good
(iii) Telecommunications	NONE	NONE
(iv) Electrical Source	Ontario Hydro	Ontario Hydro
(v) Availability	Good	Good
(vi) Reliability	Good	Good
17. OTHER ENERGY SUPPLIES		
(i) Natural Gas	NO	NO
(ii) Propane and Fuel Oil	YES	YES

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
18. TRANSPORTATION		
(i) Street Type and Condition	Paved & Gravel Fair Condition	Surface Treated and Gravel. Fair Condition
(ii) Contemplated Improvements	As lots are serviced	-
(iii) Parking	Roadside Only	Roadside Only
(iv) Public Transport	15 buses for public & charter	same system as Red Lake
(v) Taxi Service	YES	YES
(vi) Air Service	same as Balmertown 4 seaplane bases	4 flights daily connections to Dryden & Winnipeg 2 seaplane bases
(vii) Highways	Secondary highways 105, 618, 125	Same as Red Lake
(viii) Truck Transport	3 local and Inter-Provincial Carriers	Same as Red Lake
(ix) Passenger Bus Service	1 Busline with connections at Vermillion Bay and Kenora for International carriers	Same as Red Lake
(x) Rail Service	NONE	NONE
19. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
(i) Banks	2	2
(ii) Trust Companies	NONE	NONE
(iii) Finance Companies	NONE	NONE
(iv) Credit Union	NONE	NONE

FACTOR	RED LAKE	BALMERTOWN
20. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1 Lawyer 2 Notaries 1 Bookeeper 1 Land Surveyor 1 Mortician 2 Justices of the Peace	1 Notary 2 Justices of the Peace
21. TOURIST ACCOMMODATION		
(i) Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Cabins	2 Motels 1 Hotel 88 Rooms	2 Hotels 44 Rooms
22. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES		
(i) Theatres	1	-
(ii) Churches	7	4
(iii) Child Care Centres	1 Day Care Centre	1 Day Care Centre
(iv) Community Centres	2 Rec. Halls Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre	3 Rec. Halls
(v) Recreational Facilities	Public Beaches 1 Outdoor Skating Rink Rink Yacht Club 1 Bowling Alley 2 Tennis Courts Nature Trails hunting, fishing, camping	1 Arena 2 Curling Rinks 1 Golf Course 1 Ski Area Yacht Club Public Beaches Nature Trails 2 Tennis Courts hunting, fishing, camping

IV QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

IV QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

A. General

A questionnaire was forwarded to all participating members of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association on November 4, 1977. This questionnaire, a copy of which appears in Appendix B, requested a great deal of information regarding life in each community and in many cases required a subjective opinion from the respondent.

For the most part, these questionnaires were completed by the clerk or head of Council in each municipality and many of the individual comments revealed the particular nature of each community. In all, 47 questionnaires were distributed with 34 being returned to date; 4 of those were from communities located north of the 50th parallel.

The questionnaire was divided into six major topic areas including:

(a) Description of Municipality
(b) Social Factors
(c) Industrial
(d) Environment
(e) Government Services
(f) Role of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

The major findings of the questionnaire by section were:

(a) Description of Municipality

Main attractions of most municipalities included:

- Rural Community Atmosphere
- Excellent Outdoor Recreational Activities
- Good Economic Structure

Main Problems of most municipalities included:

- Lack of social and cultural facilities
- Isolation from other communities
- Inadequate housing supply

Education - Most communities indicated adequate elementary facilities, slightly fewer adequate secondary facilities and more than half inadequate post secondary facilities. The only permanent post secondary facilities in the area are located in Thunder Bay. Shortcomings in secondary facilities amount to a total lack of secondary education facilities in many cases, or at least a lack of an adequate selection of options.

Health - Slightly more than half of the responding communities felt that health services in their community were adequate. Health services vary greatly across the region ranging from total absence to the major health facilities located in Thunder Bay. Disparities even exist among smaller communities, with Ear Falls requiring a 42 mile trip to a hospital facility, while Sioux Lookout with a third more population has two hospitals.

Communication Facilities - Less than half of the respondents replied to this question. Of those who did respond, a majority felt communication facilities were adequate although many felt that improvements in telephone service and choice of television channels were required.

Transportation - Most respondents felt that Road and Rail transportation in their areas were adequate, although concerns were expressed that the most appropriate use was not being made of either passenger or freight capabilities. It was noted that in many localities, freight trains were passing through to larger centres where the goods were placed on trucks for delivery back to the community, resulting in higher freight charges for goods coming into or going out of the community.

Work Force/Unemployment - There were insufficient responses to the questions concerning workforce makeup and levels of unemployment to draw any significant conclusions. From responses to other questions, however, it was possible to infer that unemployment was only a problem in towns with economies based on agriculture and tourism where high seasonal levels of unemployment are experienced. In the mining towns, the loss of a job is often the loss of a family from the town and thus, no visible unemployment in the community.

Female Employment - Of 21 municipalities responding to this question, almost half felt female employment opportunities were adequate while another quarter were uncertain.

Housing - The respondents were split almost evenly as to the adequacy of the housing supply in their communities. Most of the inadequacies outlined related to the lack of available serviced lots in the communities or the lack of variety in housing unit types, i.e., many communities are without apartment rental units or senior citizen units.

Water and Sewer Facilities - Most municipalities indicated that their water systems were adequate although less than half felt that sewer systems were adequate. It was noted by several municipalities indicating sewer inadequacies that improvement programs were underway or anticipated to commence in the near future.

(b) Social Factors

Native Population - All but one respondent indicated a native population of less than 25% of the total population. Only Sioux Narrows has a greater portion of native population and that in excess of 50%.

Social Problems - The respondents were asked to rank 11 social problems as to their frequency of occurrence in the community. Alcoholism, single parents, family breakup and unemployment rated the highest on the list while juvenile delinquency and drug addiction were only slightly less common. Most of the agricultural communities rated social problems very low as opposed to the more urbanized communities which gave higher ratings to these factors.

Almost half of the municipalities responded that alcoholism was especially related to living conditions in the north. About one-quarter of the municipalities noted unemployment as the northern social problem.

Public Assistance - Most respondents indicated that between 1% and 5% of their population was dependent upon public assistance of some type.

Population Turnover - Of 26 municipalities responding to the rate of annual population turnover, the majority indicated a turnover of less than 10% per annum. Only Pickle Lake indicated a turnover of in excess of 30%, which is due primarily to the startup and slow down in the Umex mine operation.

Mobility of Youth - Slightly more than half of the municipalities indicated that most of their youth leave the community after completing school. One-third felt that equal numbers leave and stay.

Job Opportunities for Youth - About two-thirds of the respo dents felt that there would be almost no job opportunities for the youth of the community over the next ten years

while the remainder felt there would be opportunities for some.

Leisure Time Services - Some two-thirds of the respondents felt that athletic, recreational and library facilities in their municipality were adequate while about one-half felt opportunities for adult education were adequate. Only one community felt its cultural facilities were adequate while the remainder indicated a lack of local facilities as well as the need to travel long distances to Thunder Bay or Winnipeg to find appropriate facilities.

Arenas, community centres and golf courses were the specific facilities most often indicated as required in the municipality. However, most respondents did not feel that a greater number of leisure time services would reduce population turnover.

Racial Conflict - The majority of respondents indicated few or no racial or ethnic conflicts in their community. A number of municipalities, however, took the opportunity to suggest that the three levels of government and the native population must sort out potential areas of difficulty in order to avoid problems in the future.

Problems Unique to North - The most common responses to this question were alcoholism, isolation and health services.

(c) Industrial

Most Important Industry - More than 1/3 of the municipalities listed forestry as their most important industry while about one-fifth each indicated mining or agriculture as their most important industry. Education and the Transportation and Communication industry were ranked next in importance while tourism and government services were ranked most important only by 2 and 1 municipality, respectively. Education, tourism, and government services were far more significant as second ranked industries with major employment often associated with these industries. For example, in Kenora, government services employ almost as many people as the town's major employer, the forestry industry.

Secondary Industry - Secondary industry appears to be the exception to the rule in communities in Northwestern Ontario. Those few industries indicated were closely tied to the primary resource industries and included, particle board manufacture, a wild rice packing plant plant, a small boat manufacturer and a prefab home industry.

In most cases, municipalities felt that the revenue from these industries to the municipality was moderate or low.

Tourism - Surprisingly, tourism was generally rated as a lesser contributor in most municipalities. Communities along the Trans-Canada Highway tended to indicate a more significant impact from tourism but generally, community attitudes suggested tourism was worth something but really wasn't significant. The importance of highway location to tourist dollars is further demonstrated by a ranking of travellers and sightseers as more important than hunting and fishing to most municipalities.

Alternative Industries - Most municipalities indicated a reliance on primary industries for alternate industry in their community. Mining and secondary forest industry were commonly given as alternates while many municipalities indicated a hopeful desire for light manufacturing industries. It was indicated that past efforts to attract manufacturers to the area had proven futile largely due, it was felt, to unfavourable freight rates. Some interesting proposals for alfalfa plants and canneries to process agricultural products were suggested by municipalities in the Rainy River area. Most municipalities felt there was not enough effort being made at all levels to assist in diversifying their local economies.

Development North of 50th Parallel - Two-thirds of the respondents felt that major industrial development should occur north of the 50th parallel. A strong case was made for ensuring that any development in the area be conducted on an environmentally sound basis. Some of the more southerly municipalities opposed development north of 50^{o} indicating that the area between the 48th and 50th parallels should first be developed to its maximum potential.

(d) Environment - A significant number of respondents in this section indicated uncertainty in answering the questions as they were not totally aware of existing regulations for environmental protection in the Province.

Environment/Industry Tradeoff - Of those respondents who answered this question, those willing to accept a reduction in environmental controls outnumbered 2 to 1 those who would reject an industry in the face of reducing their standard of living.

Adequacy of Existing Controls - Approximately one-third of the respondents felt existing environmental controls were adequate while one-third were uncertain. Of the remainder, those who felt current controls were too loose outnumbered by 4 to 1 those who felt current controls were too stiff.

Local Environmental Problems - Just over one-third of the respondents indicated river and lake pollution as a problem while a quarter indicated that they had no local environmental problems.

Enforcement - Of those municipalities who responded, equal numbers agreed and disagreed that current enforcement of environmental controls was satisfactory. Almost half felt that improvement in enforcement was warranted, while one-third felt enforcement of environmental controls should be relaxed.

Service Center - More than half of the respondents indicated that Thunder Bay was their most important service center with about one-quarter indicating Fort Frances. The more western municipalities in the region tended to give Winnipeg as their most important service centre.

(e) Government Services

Applicability of Regulations - More than half of the respondents felt that current regulations pertaining to water supply, sewage treatment and air pollution were applicable to the north. There was about equal agreement and disagreement concerning noise, and road and traffic regulations, but only planning controls were noted by more than half of the respondents as unapplicable to the northern situation.

Numerous communities offered additional comment in this section questioning among other things,

- the regulations against burning garbage in northern communities,
- the need for communal sewage treatment facilities in communities where septic fields may operate adequately,
- the inability to purchase lands for private residential or cottage uses, in areas where land is such a vast resource.

Revenue - There was a fairly even split amongst those municipalities which felt they were or were not receiving their proper share of Federal and Provincial revenues. More directly, 25 or 28 responses to this questioning felt that they should receive more funding per capita than the rest of Ontario. This need for additional funding was based primarily on the higher costs of living experienced in the north due to higher energy costs, higher freight rates, long distances to travel to various facilities and long severe winters which require additional heating in comparison to the remainder of the Province.

A further point on revenues was noted by municipalities who serve as bedroom communities for natural resource extraction operations. Where these extraction sites are outside of municipal boundaries, they are not taxable by the municipality, yet the municipality still must provide the proper service for the employees residing in the community. In Ignace, this problem has created significant problems in municipal finances. The most frustrating aspect of this inability to tax is seeing the Province assessing $20 million of mining tax to Mattabi mines since 1972 while returning only $500,000 to municipal revenues.

Federal/Provincial Payments - Respondents indicated a great range in the percentage of municipal expenditures which were covered by provincial or federal payments, varying from a low of 4% to a high of 100%, the average being 49%. There was almost an even split between those satisfied and dissatisfied with the present system of senio: government payments to municipalities but a large number indicated a desire to see some stability in the amounts of grants being given. This stability would assist the municipalities in budgeting for the upcoming years.

Federal/Provincial Involvement - Slightly less than half of those responding to this question felt that the federal government played a proper role in municipal affairs. Almost two thirds however, felt the provincial government was overly involved in directing and supervising municipal affairs.

(f) Role of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment

Terms of Reference - More than half of those responding to this question were uncertain as to the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission. Of the remainining responses those agreeing with the Terms of Reference outnumbered those disagreeing by 4 to 1. It would appear from this survey that many communities are not fully aware of the Commission's mandate.

Issues Which Should be Considered - The respondents were asked to indicate the issues which they felt should be considered by the Royal Commission. Those issues most often stated included:

1. Northern Development
2. Environmental Protection
3. Native People and Native Rights
4. Future Employment Opportunities.

Necessity of Royal Commission - One-quarter of those responding to this question were uncertain as to the necessity of the Royal Commission while one-quarter felt it was not necessary at all. Many of these negative responses were from the more southerly communities who may not be as directly effected by development north of the 50th parallel.

The remaining half responded favourably to the need for the Commission but many included the comment that they hoped the Commission's Report would result in positive action to the benefit of the North and provide a basis for ongoing study and improvement.

B. Analysis of Questionnaire by Geographic Area

The following responses are split up into three groups. Group I comprises those communities that lie north of the 50th parallel. These include Sioux Lookout, Pickle Lake, Red Lake, Balmertown, Ear Falls and Nakina. There were four questionnaire returns from this group. The second group comprises those service areas and primary industry towns related to the natural resources lying north of the 50th parallel. These include Geraldtown, Longlac, Atikokan, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, Red Rock, Ignace, Dryden, Kenora and Keewatin. There were sixteen questionnaire returns from this group. The third group comprises those service centres that act as major focal points for the north and other municipalities situated close by. These include Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Fort Frances. There were fourteen questionnaire returns from this group. Not all questions were answered in each questionnaire.

1. Main Attractions

The respondents were asked to list the main attractions of living in their municipalities.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- Employment	- Rural Atmosphere	- Rural Atmosphere
- Outdoors Environment	- Lifestyle	- Clean Environment
- Lifestyle	- Outdoors Environment	- Proximity to Urban Centres
- Recreation	- Inexpensive Property	- Recreation
	- Recreation	

2. Main Drawbacks

The respondents were asked to list the main problems related to living in their municipalities.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- Housing	- Housing	- High cost of living
- Entertainment	- Health Services	- Lack of Municipal Funds
- Transportation	- High Cost of Living	- Health Services
- Education	- Inadequate Commercial Facilities	- Water & Sewage Facilities
- Social Problems	- Inadequate Cultural & Recreational Facilities	
- Inadequate Commercial Facilities	- Unemployment	- Unemployment

3. Education

The respondents were asked whether or not there are adequate educational facilities in their community.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 4 - elementary facilities adequate	- 14 - elementary facilities adequate	- 13 - elementary facilities adequate
- 3 - secondary school facilities adequate	- 2 - elementary facilities inadequate	- 1 - elementary facilities inadequat
- 1 - secondary school facilities inadequate	- 12 - secondary school facilities adequate	- 12 - secondary facilities adequate
- 4 - post-secondary facilities inadequate	- 4 - secondary school facilities inadequate	- 2 - secondary facilities inadequate
	- 2 - post-secondary facilities adequate	- 5 - post-secondary facilities adequate
	- 14 - post-secondary facilities inadequate	- 9 - post-secondary facilities inadequate

4. Health Services

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not the health services in their communities are adequate.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 2 - adequate	- 8 - adequate	- 9 - adequate
- 2 - inadequate	- 6 - inadequate	- 4 - inadequate
	- 2 - uncertain	- 1 - uncertain

5. Communications/Transportations

The respondents were asked whether or not communication / transportation facilities were adequate in their communities.

Group I

Communications
- 1 - adequate
- 2 - inadequate
- 1 - uncertain

Roads
- 3 - adequate
- 1 - uncertain

Rail
- 4 - inadequate

Air
- 1 - adequate
- 2 - inadequate
- 1 - uncertain

Group II

Communications
- 5 - adequate
- 5 - inadequate
- 6 - uncertain

Roads
- 14 - adequate
- 1 - inadequate
- 1 - uncertain

Rail
- 10 - adequate
- 4 - inadequate
- 2 - uncertain

Air
- 4 - adequate
- 9 - inadequate
- 3 - uncertain

Group III

Communications
- 8 - adequate
- 1 - inadequate
- 5 - uncertain

Roads
- 12 - adequate
- 2 - inadequate

Rail
- 10 - adequate
- 3 - inadequate
- 1 - uncertain

Air
- 5 - adequate
- 7 - inadequate
- 2 - uncertain

6. Housing

The respondents were asked whether or not there is an adequate supply of decent and affordable housing in their municipalities.

Group I
- 4 - inadequate

Group II
- 3 - adequate
- 7 - somewhat inadequate
- 6 - inadequate

Group III
- 8 - adequate
- 4 - somewhat inadequate
- 2 - inadequate

7. Hard Services

The respondents were asked whether or not there is adequate water and sewer treatment facilities in their municipalities.

Group I	Group II	Group III
Water	Water	Water
- 4 - adequate	- 13 - adequate	- 4 - adequate
Sewer	- 3 - inadequate	- 7 - inadequate
- 3 - adequate	Sewer	- 3 - uncertain
- 1 - inadequate	- 10 - adequate	Sewer
	- 6 - inadequate	- 3 - adequate
		- 8 - inadequate
		- 3 - uncertain

8. Social Issues

The respondents were asked which social problems are related to current living conditions in the north.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- Alcoholism	- Alcoholism	- Alcoholism
- Family breakup	- Family breakup	- Unemployment
- Health	- Unemployment	
	- Juvenile delinquency	

9. Leisure Facilities

The respondents were asked whether or not there is adequate leisure time services in their communities.

Group I	Group II	Group III
Athletic	Athletic	Athletic
- 2 - adequate	- 11 - adequate	- 11 - adequate
- 2 - inadequate	- 4 - inadequate	- 2 - inadequate
Library	- 1 - uncertain	- 1 - uncertain
- 3 - adequate	Library	Library
- 1 - inadequate	- 14 - adequate	- 10 - adequate
	- 2 - inadequate	- 4 - inadequate

9. Leisure Facilities (Cont'd)

Group I

Adult Education
- 4 - inadequate

Cultural Facilities
- 1 - adequate
- 3 - inadequate

Group II

Adult Education
- 9 - adequate
- 6 - inadequate
- 1 - uncertain

Cultural Facilities
- 2 - adequate
- 12 - inadequate
- 2 - uncertain

Group III

Adult Education
- 9 - adequate
- 5 - inadequate

Cultural Facilities
- 5 - adequate
- 9 - inadequate

10. Industrial

The respondents were asked to rank in order of importance the major industries in their communities.

Group I
- Mining
- Forestry
- Tourism

Group II
- Forestry
- Mining
- Education

Group III
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Transportation/ Communications

11. Tourism

The respondents were asked to list the most important types of tourism in their communities.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- Hunting/Fishing	- Hunting/Fishing	- Hunting/Fishing
- Cottages	- Travellers and siteseers	- Travellers and siteseers

12. Economic Diversity

The respondents were asked their opinions on whether or not enough effort has been made to diversify and strengthen their local economies.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 4 - no	- 11 - no	- 2 - yes
	- 5 - uncertain	- 9 - no
		- 3 - uncertain

13. Industrial Development North of 50

The respondents were asked whether or not they would want major industrial development north of the 50th parallel and if so, under what terms.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 4 - Yes, but with strict environmental controls.	- 11 - Yes, but with strict environmental controls.	- 7 - Yes, but with Canadian ownership, government assistance and strict environmental controls.
	- 3 - no	- 5 - No
	- 2 - uncertain	- 2 - uncertain

14. Environment

The respondents were asked what are the most important environmental problems that they face in and around their immediate areas and whether the environmental controls should be improved or relaxed.

14. Environment (Cont'd)

Group I
- Water pollution & reforestation are the major issues.

Improved
- 2 - yes
- 1 - no
- 1 - uncertain

Relaxed
- 1 - yes
- 1 - in certain circumstances
- 2 - no

Group II
- Water and Air pollution is the major issue.

Improved
- 5 - yes
- 3 - no
- 8 - uncertain

Relaxed
- 1 - yes
- 6 - no
- 9 - uncertain

Group III
- The major issue is water pollution

Improved
- 8 - yes
- 6 - uncertain

Relaxed
- 0 - yes
- 5 - no
- 9 - uncertain

15. Major Service Centres

The respondents were asked to name in order of importance the municipalities that they considered the most important service centres for their communities.

Group I
- Winnipeg
- Dryden
- Kenora

Group II
- Thunder Bay
- Winnipeg
- Kenora
- Dryden
- Sault Ste. Marie
- Toronto

Group III
- Thunder Bay
- Fort Frances
- Rainy River
- Winnipeg
- Toronto

16. Government

The respondents were asked whether or not government has proper involvement in their municipal affairs, not enough direction and supervision or too much direction and supervision of municipal affairs.

16. Government (Cont'd)

Federal

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 1 - proper involvement	- 5 - proper involvement	- 7 - proper involvement
- 1 - not enough	- 2 - not enough	- 2 - too much
- 2 - uncertain	- 1 - too much	- 5 - uncertain
	- 8 - uncertain	

Provincial

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 3 - too much	- 3 - proper involvement	- 2 - proper involvement
- 1 - not enough	- 1 - not enough	- 9 - too much
	- 7 - too much	- 3 - uncertain
	- 5 - uncertain	

17. Government Funding

The respondents were asked if their municipalities should receive the same amount of funding per capita or more funding per capita than the rest of Ontario.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 4 - more per capita	- 14 - more per capita	- 9 - more per capita
	- 2 - uncertain	- 3 - same per capita
		- 2 - uncertain

18. Role of Royal Commission

Terms of Reference

Respondents were asked whether or not they considered the terms of reference of the Royal Commission adequate.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 2 - yes	- 6 - yes	- 4 - yes
- 2 - uncertain	- 1 - no	- 2 - no
	- 9 - uncertain	- 8 - uncertain

Necessity of Royal Commission

The respondents were asked whether or not they believe this Royal Commission is necessary.

Group I	Group II	Group III
- 2 - yes	- 8 - yes	- 4 - yes
- 2 - uncertain	- 2 - no	- 5 - no
	- 6 - uncertain	- 5 - uncertain

18. Role of Royal Commission (Cont'd)

Issues

The respondents were asked to list the most important issues that the Royal Commission should be considering.

Group I

- Environmental controls
- The development of existing urban areas.
- unavailability of land for permanent or seasonal residence
- Provision of services

Group II

- Environmental controls
- The development of secondary industry
- The need for vocational training education
- Forest regeneration
- Native claims
- Costs of goods and services

Group III

- Environmental controls
- Employment
- Decentralization of government policies to local municipalities
- Native claims
- Forest regeneration
- Transportation/ Communications
- Health Care
- Costs of goods and services.

V MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED

A. Economic and Financial

N.O.M.A. is satisfied that further development in Northern Ontario generally and in the area north of the 50th parallel is desirable. However, it believes that there are a variety of problems in respect of existing development and many potential problems related to new development that need attention. These are briefly set out below.

There are now a number of policies and programmes that promote inequality between Northern and Southern Ontario. These have been detrimental to Northwestern Ontario in the past and unless changes are made, they will not only continue to be so for existing operations, but will inhibit the development of future industries and, hence, the future economic base of the area generally. Two noteworthy problem areas are:

a) Energy policies: Two pipelines run through Northern Ontario en route to the south. One carries oil and another carries gas. The terminal of each is about 1000 miles away. Yet, the cost of either product in Northern Ontario is greater than at the destination point.

b) Transportation: A number of problems are created by existing transportation practices and have unquestionably inhibited development in Northwestern Ontario. For instance, from some communities it is necessary to ship freight west to Winnipeg, rehandled and then re-shipped back east of origin, to its final destination. The additional distance involved is often substantial, in some cases close to 1000 miles.

V MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED

b) (Cont'd)

In addition to the directional flow, there are direct cost problems associated with policies related to the definition of raw and finished products. Thus, chip-board is shipped out untrimmed as a raw product at one unit price. It is then cut and veneered and shipped back at a higher unit freight price. This inhibits finishing in the north-west and vertical integration in the forest products sector. This results in the loss of potential jobs.

There are a number of what appear to be unco-ordinated policies emanating from different levels of government that are particularly costly to the north-west. They should be co-ordinated so that existing and future endeavours may be able to maximize their economic opportunities. An important example is in transportation policies. The Federal Government controls air and rail and water borne carriers but the Province controls trucking. In addition, the Federal Government has specific arrangements with the U.S. Without a co-ordinated approach by both levels monies expended by those same two governments in industrial incentives and private industries in capital programmes cannot be maximized. A thorough evaluation of existing freight rate structures and the effect which these monopolistic or imperfectly competitive systems may have upon rates is required if transportation policies and rates are not to continue to inhibit economic development in Northwestern Ontario.

While N.O.M.A. is satisfied that additional industrial development in the north-west is desirable (provided it is accompanied by reasonable environmental controls) there are vocal minorities who do not agree with this view. There are two major reasons for this.

The first is that in the past, the Government of Ontario has adopted policies respecting development and at times even concluded agreements in principle with industries without sufficient consultation with the municipalities that will be affected. N.O.M.A. believes that careful and full consultation is essential if there is to be a harmonious relationship between all of the parties involved. Development should be a partnership between the public and private sectors. If one of the partners is not brought into discussion at an early date, friction is almost inevitable. There must be a full disclosure of intention from the beginning.

The second is that the people of the north-west have only fairly recently become aware of the potential problems associated with large scale industrial development in the area. Many are still not entirely satisfied that sufficient safeguards can be adopted to ensure that pollution and the degradation of the environment in a variety of ways can be satisfactorily prevented. To convince northerners that problems can be prevented and the long-term future of the natural renewable resources of the area can be assured will require well conceived information programmes and continuous consultation. Full disclosure of well authenticated facts is essential. The existing credibility gap must be closed before local support, which is a prerequisite for success, will be forthcoming.

It is now more than a decade since the first phase of Design for Development, the Government's strategic plan for Northwestern Ontario, was announced. In that time, various preliminary and interim statements have been issued. There is now a Ministry of Northern Affairs yet there is no firm policy context and no overall plan for the North-West.

Any overall plans for the Region should not only contain goals and objectives but also frame detailed strategies and programmes to achieve these targets. Thus far, these strategies and programmes have either been lacking or insufficient.

There are a variety of programmes to assist both municipalities and industries but their relationship is often tenuous. There is little certainty and municipalities find it difficult if not impossible to plan coherently for more than one or two years ahead. Money is often only made available at times when, because of the short construction season, municipalities can only undertake work uneconomically and sometimes not at all. Sufficient lead time to plan intelligently and logically is often lacking. Since Municipal Capital Works Programmes are required in a five year term by the Ontario Municipal Board, the Government should also provide a reasonable degree of certainty for the same period.

A plan and or firm policy context is important to industry also so that it can plan for new or expanded facilities. This applies particularly to Forestry, Mining and Tourism all of which involve substantial capital investment. It is unreasonable to expect satisfactory development when the ground rules are not clear or non-existent. On the one hand, private capital is often inhibited by such a vacuum and, on the other, it is often held up for long periods of time while policies and controls are formulated for a specific proposal on an ad hoc basis.

Turning to the three major industries of the north, namely Forestry, Mining and Tourism, a number of important problems can be identified.

In respect to the future of Forestry, this involves the wise utilization of one of Canada's most significant renewable resources. It has long been known that very careful attention should be given to the matter of reforestation because a considerable length of time is required to grow replacement stock. Notwithstanding this, and the substantial body of biological knowledge available, satisfactory policies have not been clearly spelled out and put into effect by the Government. As a result, there is confusion and uncertainty often leading to outright opposition to specific proposals. Such should not be unexpected. The facts are known. All that is required is firm action and consistent administration. This must begin now if a prosperous future is to be assured.

Every effort should also be made to ensure that resources are put to maximum use and not wasted. The possibilities for the extension of the existing forest products range should be reviewed and diversification encouraged. For example, if there is a substantial demand for the production of dimensional lumber, this resource should be extracted before the remaining fibre is given over to the pulp and paper industry. This would both encourage secondary industry and assist in reduction of local building costs through the availability of dimensional lumber to area municipalities.

Mining has been an important ingredient of northern economy since the opening up of the area. Initially, the mining companies built their own towns and paid for them out of revenues. In recent times, municipalities have increasingly assumed the task of building the community facilities required (parks, arenas, libraries, etc.) and developing the infrastructure (roads, sanitary sewage systems, watermains, storm sewers, etc.) necessary to provide for the workers in the industry. Private capital has usually constructed the housing units but there are many instances where various levels of government have been involved in this activity. Often the mining companies have materially, and sometimes very generously, assisted the municapalities financially.

When the mining interests built these facilities, there was no significant burden to the local Municipality if the mine closed. Now, however, the situation has changed dramatically. In the event that a mine curtails its activities and lays off workers or closes completely, the Municipality is confronted with very serious and sometimes crippling financial problems.

There is general recognition of these changed circumstances and the difficulties being experienced particularly by small single industry towns. Notwithstanding this, the relatively recent amendments to the Mining Tax Act were not discussed with municipalities whose only base is mining. The result of the act is that mining companies cannot write off donations to municipalities for community facilities and may, under these circumstances, be less willing to assist municipalities.

Many mining settlements are isolated and must thus be culturally self sufficient. There is thus a critical need for assistance from the industry that is the reason for their existence. To effectively cut off such assistance without consultation is entirely unreasonable and has resulted in serious justifiable criticism.

Another problem that has long been apparent, but not satisfactorily addressed and solved concerns the matter of municipal taxation areas. In some cases, mines and their workings are outside municipal limits. The taxes from the mine do not therefore accrue to the municipality on a predictable basis. It cannot therefore budget its expenditures on a predictable and logical basis knowing that certain tax revenues will be forthcoming on a relatively long-term basis. This anomalous situation must be rectified and a greater proportion of the taxation paid to the senior levels of government returned to the communities which serve the industry. This situation needs immediate attention and overhaul.

In addition to the question of building, maintaining and paying for community facilities and infrastructure, municipalities are not infrequently faced with external problems by mining activities during operations and when they close down. This involves such matters as pollution and the long term effects thereof as well as large waste dumps. It is important that these situations be recognized and measures be taken to clean up old problems and to prevent new ones. This should not be at the expense of the municipality whether or not the mining operation is within municipal limits.

The municipalities do not now assert that everything, including houses, should be paid for by the mining companies. But they do most vigorously argue that the municipalities whose tax base is negligible, especially if a mine closes, should not be financially responsible for clean-up and prevention programmes.

In a nutshell, the many problems associated with mining in the north-west must be promptly addressed, equitable solutions found and implemented by financial measures and reasonable controls. Only in this way can existing industries continue in harmony with local governments and new operations be encouraged without severe trepidation on the part of the local population.

The Tourist industry has historically been an important element in the Northwestern economy. However, a variety of changes on the national and international scene have, in recent years, prevented existing operations from maintaining their prosperity and expanding and have not enabled satisfactory growth in this sector.

Considerable harm was done to tourism by the publicity surrounding pollution in the North-West which in the minds of many potential tourists was all pervasive and not, as in fact it was, limited to only a number of specific areas. Continuing efforts must be made by government, who caused the problem, the focus attention only where it should be.

It is recognized that the season for many tourist operations is limited in the North-West but financial arrangements for enlargement, modernization and new building have not been framed appropriately. There should be more flexible policies, backed by the Government, to permit optimization of the tourist industry in accordance with long-term Provincial strategies.

N.O.M.A. maintains that the whole of Northwestern Ontario and particularly the area north of the 50th parallel is underdeveloped in respect of tourism where there is one of the greatest and most magnificent wilderness areas in the world. There is no dispute with the need to exercise prudence and caution in the future. But, it is argued that many of the control measures now in place are unduly restrictive and geared more to the problems of Southern Ontario where vast numbers of people wish to use relatively limited areas near the mass of population in the 'Golden Horseshoe'. For instance, cottage lots are almost impossible to obtain and are becoming prohibitive in price in the North-West. And, it is very difficult to obtain permission to establish new fishing or hunting lodges. New policies, better suited to the North-West, are essential.

While much, if not most, legitimate development is prevented there is a great deal of unregulated camping in the north-western bush. The effects are numerous. It is appreciated that some people wish to camp and this vacation pursuit is not contested. However, if they are to use the area, they should contribute to its maintenance. Unregulated camping often harms the bush, causes forest fires and frequently leaves behind garbage and other solid waste which the area must clean up. The cost of this work is often substantial but there is no revenue from the people whose actions caused the problems.

In addition to the problems already noted, there has been an increasing use and depletion of the natural resources of the area by non-residents. Fishing is widespread and many lakes which were once abundantly stocked are now almost empty. It is clear that a more equitable policy in respect of this matter is urgently required. Non-residents should pay considerably more for their recreational pursuits while the local people should be less heavily burdened.

The use of unregulated, privately owned, often foreign, aircraft to fly into isolated lakes and camps must be given serious attention. For the most part, these vacationers contribute, like the campers, little to the local economy. Federal-Provincial, as well as local, consultation in this matter is urgently needed so that an equitable solution to the problem can be found.

In summary, a detailed strategy must be formulated to encourage economic development in Northwestern Ontario combined with programmes, sensitive to local conditions, which will allow economic targets to be achieved. The senior levels of government must make a firm committment to these programmes. Ways must also be found to remove the inequities respecting municipal finance which are common in the area. Affected municipalities should be given a reasonable share of the wealth created and should be given funds on a continuous and assured basis so that they can plan long-term expenditures.

B. Social and Cultural Conditions

One of the main attractions of Northwestern Ontario is the pleasant and easy-going lifestyle available to its residents. This point in particular was reiterated by N.O.M.A. members as one aspect of life in the North that they would like to see protected. This lifestyle has been promoted by the familiarity and friendliness of people with each other in the small centres and by the somewhat overpowering effect that the beauty of the natural environment has on man's activities in Northern Ontario.

However, the tranquility of lifestyles in the North is not without its "growing pains". In particular, N.O.M.A. members outlined key areas of deficiency in the social and cultural opportunities available.

Education

Generally, it was agreed that the quality of education in the schools is very good.

However, there are some aspects to education in Northwestern Ontario that are quite different than in the densely populated urban areas to the south. In some of the more remote areas where the population is not large enough to generate the necessary operating funds to construct a high school, the students must be transported great distances each day to high schools in other towns. In some cases, this travelling can mean hours on the bus and up to 90 miles to school and back each day. This situation may contribute to the fairly high dropout rates in these high schools.

Often in small centres, the courses offered by the high schools are restricted by budget and size constraints. Some courses are not offered at all and others only through limited correspondence. Whereas, in the south one might find a choice

of high schools offering a range of different courses within commuting distance, the northern student does not and therefore, is at a significant disadvantage.

Another area of concern in Northwestern Ontario is the lack of vocational trade courses available to high school students, especially for those living in the smaller centres. This is particularly disturbing given that the economies of many centres in Northwestern Ontario are heavily dependent on natural resource industries and therefore, require large numbers of skilled workers.It is also noted that tradesmen providing community services are in short supply in many North-West centres.

Thus, many feel that the educational system should be upgraded in order that the northern student may enjoy some of the same basic opportunities as those students in the more densely populated urban areas.

Many suggest that this might best be done by an infusion of funds by the Provincial government to the local school boards to offset any of these disparities caused in part by sparse population densities and extremely high travel distances.

Recreation

Recreation is an important element in the lifestyle of northern residents. Although the natural environment provides much of the recreational space, indoor facilities are necessary for many recreational activities during the long winter months.

Here again, local municipalities have a problem in providing adequate facilities due to budget constraints and small populations.

Some Examples are:

1. Though Provincial grants are available for these purposes, such as Wintario, the smaller municipalities are strained in coming up with the percentage needed for local funding.
2. Recreational facilities are further restricted in some communities where there is no high school.
3. In the past, some of the smaller towns have had the benefit of expenditures on recreational facilities from the local mining operations but due to recent Provincial tax changes, this may no longer be available.
4. It is widely believed that improved recreational facilities would help to alleviate many of the social problems common to remote northern communities, such as the occurrence of alcoholism and juvenile delinquency.

Entertainment

Travel distances, to a large extent, determine the availability of certain cultural programmes. In some cases, municipalities are hundreds of miles from the nearest theatre, art gallery or museum. Thus, few people find the opportunity to experience such facilities.

In many areas, the residents feel that the one C.B.C. television channel is inadequate for their needs and more should be provided. There was also the opinion given that Native radio communication programmes should be promoted.

Social Services

Due in part to great distances, the lack of funds and professional personnel, many government social services are difficult to provide. Many of the small remote communities experience particular hardships due to the fact that similar services

offered in neighbouring municipalities are miles away and thus, sharing services is almost impossible. Together with this, the smaller municipalities lack the funds to supply needed facilities such as care for the aged and the handicapped, which are commonplace in the larger urban centres.

Many N.O.M.A. members expressed the following views and concerns:

1. There should be a better delivery of services.
2. Where possible, neighbouring municipalities should join programmes and share social services in order to provide services at the most efficient cost.
3. Preventative education programmes should be initiated in the communities on the problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. In addition, counselling services should be set up.
4. Family break-up and alcoholism are prevalent in northern communities and these problems are partly related to the lack of adequate recreational and entertainment facilities.

Employment

Unemployment in northern communities varies in severity. However, it is generally felt that employment opportunities for women should be improved. This is especially important due to the high cost of living in many communities and the need for married women to work and provide additional support to family incomes.

C. Environmental

There is deep concern among N.O.M.A. members for the environment. Many of the mistakes that were made in years gone by should not be repeated. Industries and municipalities should not be permitted to discharge wastes that create excessive environmental damage. New industries should not be allowed to start if they will be discharging harmful wastes.

On the other hand, there is much dissatisfaction with the environmental regulations and the manner by which they are being administered currently. In many cases, industries that were established as long as 70 years ago are currently discharging pollutants that are well in excess of provincial standards. Many people feel that the present controls are "too stiff, too late" in relation to some of these situations. Many people feel that the enforcement at this time of very stiff regulations might result in a major industry closing its doors rather than constructing the necessary changes to the plant to comply with present standards. This would create substantial unemployment.

Many people believe that the enforcement of current regulations is unfair. Municipalities are being required to install, quickly, the necessary facilities to meet c urrent criteria while industry, on the other hand, is being given a longer period of time to comply.

In general, N.O.M.A. considers that development of new and expans.on of existing industry, including those secondary industries related to natural resource extraction, is important and desirable but should be done consistent with reasonable environmental regulations.

Environmental controls, as they presently exist, are not always suitable to specific areas in the north. In many cases, control programmes and design criteria are imposed province-wide without due consideration for special problems in the north.

There are many examples of this. Land fill requirements that are suitable for large metropolitan areas or more densely settled areas of south-eastern Ontario should not be applied in the north. Even though some degradation may result from disposal of materials in land fill sites, it is considered unnecessarily restrictive to apply standards in northern Ontario which have been largely formulated on the basis of southern Ontario requirements. With minor exceptions, the area is so large and so sparsely settled that this type of minor degradation is acceptable. It is unnecessarily expensive to adhere to uniform criteria.

Controlled burning in garbage dumps should be permitted, even though there will be some slight air pollution as a result of this. Again, in general, the area is so large that it doesn't adversely affect the residents of the area. A similar situation prevails with respect to regulations that apply to stack emissions from industry.

There is a strong feeling that provincial controls should be set in consultation with local people and industries. There should be a decentralization of existing provincial controls and environmental design criteria. The Province should still be the leader in this endeavour but input from local people should be solicited and listened to. There is a deep feeling among the people in the north that controls and criteria are being designed by people who have little knowledge of the area, the terrain and the climate of the north.

Multi-use of natural resources could be improved. In many ways, this could serve to reduce pollution of the environment and undesirable after effects of mineral exploitation and forest harvesting.

In the forestry industry, at the present time, poplar is not being harvested in some areas. Better use could be made of the entire forest if species of trees which were not desirable for the paper industry were used for other purposes. For example, poplar could be harvested and used to produce veneer, chipboard or other products. Present practice leaves species such as poplar standing, exposed to high winds, whch eventually results in the loss of these trees. Even if these trees don't suffer wind damage, when surrounding coniferous trees are removed, the bare trunks are subject to sunburn and other undesirable effects that result finally in their loss.

Similarly, the paper industry may be able to develop processes by which presently undesirable species can be used for paper or related products. The secondary industry created thereby would not only result in improvement to the environment but also to the economy of the area by producing more jobs and a greater tax base.

One of the other issues that comes under the heading of multiple use of natural resources is the integration of the tourist industry and forest harvesting. When the forest areas are being harvested, roads are constructed to allow access into the area. This affords better access for the tourist industry as well but careful planning of the forest harvesting should be done in order to assist the tourist industry. Tourists are not interested in visiting a completely cut-over area. Hunting can be improved in areas where cutting is done in such a way that game will be attracted to the area. Over-mature stands of timber afford protection for game but recently cut or burned areas offer a better source of food.

Fly-in camps will be temporarily disrupted while cutting is proceeding in the immediate area but if this is planned in conjunction with the tourist industry, a minimum of conflict will result.

It is necessary to define and quantify the trade-offs that are present between industrial, commercial and environmental concerns. Environmental controls can be defined in a way that would prevent any kind of industrial development. The result in this case would be a clean environment but no jobs and the economy would suffer greatly. On the other hand, the provision of jobs cannot be the only factor in the equation. Unfortunately, in years gone by, this did happen on occasion and serious environmental problems have resulted. Many people feel that little or no concern has been shown by government to the implications of these trade-offs.

Two benefits could likely be achieved from a more appropriate consideration of this problem and an improved education programme to achieve understanding of the issues. First of all, controls would be established that would adequately protect the environment while at the same time would not be detrimental to the economic base of the area. Secondly, there would be better acceptance by the people of these controls because they would understand what the trade-offs are in terms of the present and future.

Better education would also result in controls being set that were really necessary and not more than necessary. An example of this issue is mercury pollution. There is a high degree of mercury content in the waters and river and lake bottoms in the N.O.M.A. area. Much of this is natural mercury which does not result from any kind of industrial pollution. There is significant doubt in the minds of many people at the present time as to whether or not it is an issue

that is being properly managed. It has been suggested in a previous brief to the Commission that mercury in its natural elemental form is harmless, even though it may be found in high concentrations. This brief suggested that only salts of mercury such as mercuric chloride are harmful to the human being. This issue is clearly not well understood by the public and should be investigated and reported on further. Environmental concerns related to this issue, however, have had very significant detrimental economical effects on certain areas.

Renewable resources should be allocated in a way that will assure a continuing supply to existing industries. An example is the allocation of timber cutting rights. Where a paper mill is already established and the economy of a community is based on that, care should be taken to ensure that cutting licences are issued in a way that the mill will have a continuing source of wood for the long-term future.

Many municipalities find that the responsibilities of industry and government are not clearly defined. This is particularly true in the forest industry. The Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for controlling the cutting of timber and reforestation. The municipalities that are affected, however, are not sure who to complain to when problems are encountered. The industries say that certain issues are the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources but when the Ministry is contacted on this issue, the municipalities are informed that the industry is responsible. This is a source of frustration that could be overcome if the guidelines and responsibilities were clearly set out.

Another problem is that of closed mines. Many examples can be cited where mine shafts and buildings were simply abandoned when the mine operations ceased. These are now unsightly, sometimes dangerous and certainly environmentally detrimental. The mining companies cannot be forced to either maintain the site or clean it up and cover the mine shaft. There is a particularily bad example of this in the centre of Red Lake at the site of the former Howey Mine. Reforesting and seeding operations are now being carried out in tailings areas of some existing mining operations but no action is being taken at abondoned sites.

In many areas, tourist camps are sources of serious pollution. Since many of these are in unorganized areas, people in the North-West are concerned that the environment is being adversely affected while there seems to be a lack of adequate machinery to control the tourist camp operators and their guests. It is important to note that this problem is probably encountered with a minority of the tourist camp operators. Most operators are very scrupulous. There are some, however, that are not, apparently, and it is suggested that improvement could be obtained in this area.

Some people suggest that the Ministry of the Environment could be more streamlined so that there are fewer departments for a municipality to deal with. Also, the inter-relationship between various Ministries should be better defined to allow municipal officials to deal more effectively and efficiently with government.

In summary, N.O.M.A. feels that development is necessary in order to protect the economy of the area. Development should include secondary and processing industries which will efficiently use the natural resources of the area and provide more jobs in the North-West. In order to encourage development, trade-offs are inevitable. The people should know and understand what these trade-offs are and whether or not they can afford to accept slightly lower standards in order to produce more jobs. Local people have valuable experience and background in the north and their views should be solicited and listened to. Environmental controls should be designed to apply particularly to special areas instead of having uniform controls that are applied province-wide.

D. Government Policies

General

Government structure should be simplified. District, Regional and Provincial levels often exist within the same Ministry, all of whom have an input into the decision-making process. Quite often, there are further divisions within these levels, all of which adds unnecessary complications to the approvals process, and can be quite detrimental to the implementation of major projects.

Economic and Financial

Taxes collected by senior governments are directly linked to the economy and inflation and automatically increase with these factors. The municipalities, on the other hand, are limited to obtaining the majority of their revenues through property taxes by adjustment of the mill rate. Municipal councils in their deliberations are much more accessible to the public, making it a much more difficult process for them to increase their revenues. Compounding this problem is the recent trend towards cutbacks in Provincial revenues with, in some cases, transfer of responsibilities from the Province to the municipalities automatically increasing municipal expenditures.

Many municipalities in Northwestern Ontario have an extensive inventory of unpaved roads. Due to the fact that paving facilities are not normally located within many of these municipalities, it is necessary to implement substantial road programs in order to attract paving contractors to the area and maintain prices at reasonable levels. M.T.C. subsidy programs are not well structured to deal with the situation. In recent years, subsidy funds

from M.T.C. have been shrinking with respect to local needs. In N.O.M.A.'s view, secondary highways serving isolated communities receive disproportionately high levels of funding comapred to the funds allocated to local municipalities.

Provincial funds are made available to assist municipalities in the construction of sanitary sewer and water projects where the Ministry of the Environment recognizes a hazard to the community's health due to a lack of these facilities. There is no further assistance available to municipalities who have established sewer and water systems or for the operation and maintenance of the systems. Due to the relatively small size, severe climate, reduced construction season, and the remote location of most Northern municipalities, a disproportionate share of the municipal budget must be devoted to sewer and water services.

Taxation for residents of organized municipalities is relatively high when compared with immediately adjacent unorganized areas. Considering that many muncipal expenditures relate to facilities which service residents of unorganized areas, this arrangement is inequitable.

There are too many 'make-work' programs generated by government producing 'non-jobs' which have very low priorities as seen by the municipalities.

Recently, the Province has provided special assistance to unorganized areas with respect to fire protection services. Although the needs of the smaller organized municipalities are similar, they are not eligible for this assistance on an equal basis.

Recent mining tax amendments have eliminated tax write-offs by mining companies with respect to social capital investments by these companies. This may substantially reduce the significant assistance which has been made available to municipalities and community organizations by the mining companies. In many cases, these donations have been the critical factor in the implementation of major community facilities including arenas, hospitals, libraries, recreational facilities, services and roads.

Policies relating to resource extraction may often incorporate significant trade offs in the formulation process. It is felt that not enough attention is being paid by government and the resource extraction industries to the extraction of resources in ways which would benefit the economic well being of area municipalities. Final policies relating to product selection, processing, marketing and purchasing philosophies, and project development would seem to be entirely related to corporate, Provincial and national goals with little attention paid to local potential and interests.

Not enough attention is being paid by government or resource industries to the impact a development may have on local areas, both socially and in its effects upon municipal finances.

Present legislation does not permit organized municipalities to tax resource-based industries, who may operate beyond municipal boundaries, but create significant demands for municipal services and housing through the employment created by these industries. This has resulted, in at least one case, in a municipality being forced into near bankruptcy.

Present government policies have created a situation where natural resources are being over-taxed, especially in terms of fishing and hunting activities by non-residents. A major factor is the complete lack of regulation of privately owned aircraft.

Government tends to over-regulate the transportation industry. This has created inequitable freight rates. In certain cases, it has led to the creation of monopolies which in turn have contributed to the inefficient operation of the transportation industry. National and Provincial transportation goals and objectives quite often completely disregard local needs.

Social and Cultural

The native people should have more input into local, Provincial and Federal policy sessions on issues which will affect them.

Local municipalities should have more input into considerations related to problems related to co-existence with the native people.

There should be less Provincial involvement with the administration of the welfare system.

The delivery of social services is more related to population than to need or to the reduction of level of service due to substantial travel distances.

Policies determining the provision of secondary educational and hospital facilities are related to population creating intolerable situations with respect to travel distances.

Environmental

Legislation for environmental protection tends to be inflexible. In many cases, it is perceived to be irrelevant to specific areas and conditions. Many environmental controls are applied on a Province-wide basis and are inappropriate to northern areas where populations are sparse.

N.O.M.A. is generally of the opinion that the existing environmental protection legislation and controls are adequate although improvements should be made in the administration of the legislation. Controls with respect to new development would, in some cases, appear to be excessive and may be detrimental to continued economic development in the area. Enforcement of environmental control measures has been lax in the past, allowing major sources of air, water and land pollution to be created. Due to public pressure, today's government may be demanding too much from existing industries to the extent that their continued viability may be in jeopardy. This is of particular concern in an economic situation where most markets for resource-based industries are somewhat soft.

Enforcement of landfill regulations is not applied uniformly in the area, resulting in little or no control of private, Provincial or Federal sites whereas, very stringent controls are being applied to municipal landfill operations, often at excessive costs to area municipalities. In the majority of cases, with the exception of very large operations such as Thunder Bay, N.O.M.A. representatives believe that controlled burning can be an entirely acceptable procedure. Burning is prohibited under present legislation.

Planning policies affecting Northern Ontario must be more flexible. The case for variation in policies from those which have been developed for the denser populations of Southern Ontario is sound. Even within the North-West, there are valid arguments for variation in planning policies which affect the long-term development of individual municipalities.

New policies with respect to land use, housing and servicing should be developed to suit Northern situations. Short-term resource activities are faced with the prospect of meeting long-term Southern Ontario housing standards. This discourages the location of temporary populations.

Recently, the Province has indicated that Area Planning Boards may be abolished. In many areas, the Area Planning Board is vital to provide full input and interchange of opinion between a central municipality and its adjacent rural area. In other areas, there are situations where rural opinions may be contrary to and overwhelmed by the objectives of the central municipality.

As a result of the approval of subdivisions in rural areas which require communal water or sewage facilities, rural municipalities are forced into situations where they must be responsible for the continued operation of these communal systems. In some cases, this situation creates an added financial burden to the rural municipality without their full understanding of the financial obligations beforehand.

Planning policies are quite comprehensive for organized municipalities; however, they are often totally lacking with respect to unorganized areas which may surround those municipalities. This creates many problems with respect to rural land use and environmental concerns which have significant effects on the population within the organized municipality but over which they have no control.

E. Role of the Commission

Many people have expressed the opinion that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment would give the North-West an opportunity to voice its opinions and have them presented in a way which would gain the attention of Queen's Park. Some have expressed the opinion that "the north is finally getting the attention it deserves".

Others have taken a less optimistic and sometimes cynical view. Some people feel that the government has undertaken many studies, task forces and enquiries in the past but no tangible results have been seen. Some indicated that large amounts of money and valuable time and effort has been expended by government on the people of the north but there was inadequate feedback and dissemination of the information gained through these studies. Still other people expressed the opinion that Royal Commissions are a complete and utter waste of money and the money would be better spent building badly needed hard services.

Members of N.O.M.A. north of the 50th parallel predictably had more interest in the workings and expected results of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment than did others. Most of the communities which would be considered service areas or municipalities where raw materials were processed from north of 50^{o} were interested in and approved of the Royal Commission. Communities further south and those that were largely agricultural in nature had less interest in the Royal Commission.

In the questionnaire that was sent out, there were four important questions asked:

- are the terms of reference adequate?
- what are the five most important issues to be studied?
- suggestions as to the format of the Royal Commission,
- is the Royal Commission necessary?

In reply to the first question, most respondents indicated that the terms of reference were adequate.

In response to the second question, the municipalities north of the 50th parallel generally indicated that the key issues were environmental controls and new development. In municipalities close to the 50th parallel and those where primary industry was located to process natural resources from north of 50°, the key issues were environmental controls, development of industry and employment and economics. In the major service centres and other municipalities such as Thunder Bay, Fort Francis, Rainy River and surrounding areas, the key issues were environmental controls, employment and decentralization of government (especially provincial).

There was little comment from respondents as to the format of the report. This could perhaps be a result of a very short time span allowed the respondents to reply. Most respondents in N.O.M.A. indicated that they felt that the Royal Commission was necessary but notable exceptions were communities some distance south of the 50th parallel. This is a predictable result since the terms of reference for the Royal Commission would prevent the Commission from studying these areas very thoroughly.

VI CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

N.O.M.A. anticipates that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment will proceed with a more detailed investigation of the issues identified in this brief. Should the Commission consider it advisable, N.O.M.A. would be pleased to participate in these further investigations. This participation could be carried out either directly with the Commission or through the Municipal Advisory Committee.

In considering the issues identified, N.O.M.A. has certain specific recommendations to make at this time, although it is recognized that some modification of these recommendations will result from further investigation and a better understanding of the issues involved.

A) ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL ISSUES

(1) New formulas must be established in order that residents and industries located in unorganized areas contribute their fair share to services provided at the expense of organized municipalities.

(2) New formulas must be established to provide adequate revenues to organized municipalities to provide a

minimum level of service to the public at costs consistent with those enjoyed by Southern Ontario municipalities. This minimum level in service should include roads, municipal services, health, education, cultural and recreational facilities.

(3) A greater proportion of Provincial revenues directed to municipalities should be unconditional. Each municipality should be permitted to establish its own priorities beyond the level of minimum servicing standards.

(4) Regulations with respect to mining taxes should be amended to permit tax write-offs to mining companies for social capital investment.

(5) Local populations and municipalities should be permitted to participate in the negotiation process together with government and industry in order to identify and to achieve trade-offs to the betterment of the local area.

(6) More pressure should be applied to the Federal Government to negotiate for changes in international tariff agreements in order to eliminate

the adverse effect on potential for further processing of raw materials in this country. Vivid examples of this exist in the Kimberly-Clark operation at Terrace Bay, the American Can operation at Marathon, and the Pluswood operation at Atikokan. Many more examples exist in the mining industry.

(7) There should be greater public awareness of the inequitable tariff arrangements which affect potential economic growth of this area.

(8) More attention should should be paid to the best use of natural resources and strategies which would encourage perpetual utilization of renewable resources. More research should be given to better utilization of the by-products of the mining industry including the production of crushed aggregates for construction purposes. More improvements are needed in timber harvesting procedures to ensure that the most efficient use is made of all timber in a given cutting area and that unnecessary damage to immature trees is reduced.

(9) Government policies with respect to the development of tourism should be directed to encourage that type of tourism which best benefits the local economy. Policies with respect to the development of summer cottage area should be more flexible as this has been identified as a major potential for revenue for this area.

(10) Government policies with respect to the utilization of natural resources north of the 50th parallel should be directed in such a way as to reinforce the general economy of the area and, at the same time contribute to the stability of all of Northwestern Ontario. New development should be evaluated on a number of factors including the manner in which it will contribute to the local economy, reduce freight rates, and provide more link road connections in Northern Ontario to encourage tourism. A full appraisal of an industry's contribution to the life style of the local population and its impact on existing municipalities should be made.

(11) Government programs, designed to ease unemployment or to stimulate the local economy, should be designed to meet the needs and priorities of municipalities.

Government assistance should be directed toward block funding of municipal projects or to help establish permanent jobs in the private or public sector.

B) SOCIAL & CULTURAL ISSUES

(1) Establish a vehicle to permit full communication and co-operation between the three levels of government and the native people. Identify and determine solutions for problems based on a complete understanding of the situation by all parties.

(2) Provide secondary education, at least to the grade 10 level, locally, in all municipalities.

(3) Provide some vocational training, consistent with local needs, throughout the area, perhaps on a rotating basis.

(4) Co-ordinate vocational training programs on a Federal-Provincial basis to provide the best

mutual benefit to populations in organized and unorganized municipalities as well as to the native bands.

(5) Restructure the Wintario and other grant programmes to recognize the higher construction costs, lack of accessibility to corporate donations, and smaller populations which prevail throughout Northwestern Ontario.

(6) Provide incentives to encourage the implementation of cable television or additional local transmission facilities to expand radio and television programming throughout Northwestern Ontario.

(7) Revise the criteria with respect to the delivery of social services to ensure that the minimum level of service delivered is reasonably consistent with local needs.

(8) Allow the municipalities more authority with respect to the administration of welfare.

C) ENVIRONMENTAL

(1) Government policy with respect to environmental control measures should be more flexible. Controls should be specific to individual sites and developments and should incorporate local input into decisions which will affect the life style of the people of the area.

(2) Planning policies should largely represent the goals and objectives of local municipalities and residents of each area. Policies related to servicing, housing and land use should be formulated taking into account the particular situation of each local area in addition to the general situation with respect to population, remote location and severe climate which prevails throughout Northern Ontario.

(3) The establishment, make-up, operation, and area under jurisdiction of local planning boards, should be largely the product of the wishes of the residents of the local area, based on general goals and objectives established by the Province.

(4) Ensure that the residue of resource extraction industries including tailings areas, gravel pits, mine shafts and headframes, and abandoned dwellings and industrial buildings are removed upon the winding up of the activity.

(5) Permit controlled burning, as an option to sanitary landfill, where this represents little hazard to the environment.

(6) Provide better public education of environmental matters to permit a better understanding of the acceptable levels of contamination, and other trade-offs, related to industrial activity.

(7) Demand that Federal, Provincial and private landfill operations comply with the same regulations as those which apply to municipalities.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

northwestern ontario municipal association

Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

Office Services, City Hall, Thunder Bay, Ont.

PRESIDENT
W. Wake
Dryden

SECRETARY-TREASURER
J.A. MacDonald
Thunder Bay

December 7, 1977

Mr. Doug Scott
Proctor & Redfern Limited
Consulting Engineers
200 S. Syndicate Avenue, 5th Floor
Thunder Bay F, Ontario

Dear Doug:

This is to advise that at a meeting of a special committee of the N.O.M.A. Executive, held in the City of Thunder Bay December 6th, the following resolution was passed relating to the preparation of a Brief to the Hartt Commission.

> "THAT N.O.M.A. endorse the amended report entitled "Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association Brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment" and that we authorize the President of N.O.M.A, or his designate, to present this document to The Royal Commission in Kenora on December 12, 1977, on behalf of N.O.M.A."

As directed at the meeting, please prepare the necessary copies for presentation to Mr. W. Wake in order that he may act as N.O.M.A.'s spokesman at the Royal Commission hearing in the Town of Kenora on December 12th.

On behalf of the President and Executive members, I wish to express to you our appreciation for the preparation of this Brief by the firms of R.V. Anderson and Proctor & Redfern, particularly in view of the short time frame allotted for this task.

Yours very truly,

J.A. MacDonald

J.A. MacDonald
Secretary-Treasurer

JAM/elf

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM 34 TOWNSHIP OF 47 CANVASSED

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

BRIEF TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY _____

DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITY

1. 1976 Population _____

2. What are the three (3) main attractions of living in your municipality?

    1. Rural community atmosphere----------18
    2. Excellent outdoor recreational activities--18
    3. Good economic structure----------12
    4. Close to large communities---------- 8

3. What are the three (3) main problems related to living in your municipality? (state in order of importance)

    1. Lack of social & cultural institutions-----14
    2. Isolation----------11
    3. Housing---------- 8

4. Are there adequate educational facilities in your community?

Type	Yes	No	Uncertain
A. Elementary	31	3	0
B. High School	27	7	0
C. Post Secondary	7	27	0

(check one each)

Comment:

5. Are there adequate health services in your community:

Yes	No	Uncertain	(circle one)
(19)	(12)	(3)	

Comments:

6. Are there adequate communication facilities in your community? Yes - 14 No - 8 Uncertain - 12

(cont'd)

	Type	Yes	No	Uncertain
A.	Roads	29	3	2
B.	Railroads	20	11	3
C.	Air Transportation	10	18	6

Comments:

Current Workforce - Male_____ Female_____

Current Unemployment _____ (% of workforce male)

_____ (% of workforce female)

Are there adequate female employment opportunities?

Yes 14 No 10 Uncertain 10

Do you have an adequate supply of decent and affordable housing?

Adequate ----------15

Somewhat inadequate ----------11

Inadequate ---------- 8 (circle one)

Comments if applicable:

Do you have adequate water and sewer treatment facilities?

Water	Yes 21	No 10	Uncertain 3
Sewer	Yes 16	No 15	Uncertain 3

Comments:

SOCIAL FACTORS

1. How do you estimate the size of the native population in the population of your municipality?

Less than 25%----------33

25% to 50%---------- 0

Greater than 50%-------- 1 (circle one)

How frequently do the following problems occur in your municipality?

	Type	Frequently	Sometimes	Very Little
a)	Unemployment	8	10	16
b)	Family breakup	6	19	9
c)	Alcoholism	12	15	7
d)	Drug addiction	2	15	17
e)	Single parent	10	12	11
f)	Child welfare	7	8	19
g)	Adult crime	0	10	23
h)	Juvenile delinquency	6	13	15
i)	Poverty	1	9	24
j)	Mental illness	2	7	25
k)	Health	4	6	24

(Check one for each item)

Comments:

In your opinion, which of the problems in #2 above are especially related to current living conditions in the north. Please list from above.

Alcoholism----------17

Unemployment ----------15

How much did your municipality spend on public assistance of all types during fiscal 1976? $_____

What percentage of your population do you estimate is dependent upon public assistance of all types (General Welfare, Family Benefits, etc.)

_____%

How much is your annual population turnover?

a) Less than 10% per annum----------30

b) 10% to 30% per annum---------- 3

c) Greater than 30% per annum---------- 1 (circle one)

Comments:

What normally happens to your youth after they leave school?

a) Most remain in the community---------- 1

b) Most leave the community----------20

c) Equal numbers leave and stay----------11 (circle one)

d) Uncertain---------- 2

Do you feel that there will be sufficient jobs in your community to employ your young people who will become adults in the next 10 years?

a) There will be opportunities for most---------- 2

b) There will be opportunities for some----------13

c) There will be almost no opportunities----------18

d) Uncertain---------- 1

Are there adequate leisure time services in your community?

Type	Yes	No	Not Certain
a) Athletic & Recreation Facilities	24	8	2
b) Libraries	27	7	0
c) Opportunities for Adult Education	18	15	1
d) Cultural facilities	7	24	2
e) Other (specify			

Comments: (check one)

What specific facilities do you now need related to the above question? e.g. Arena, figure skating class, community centre, etc.

Arena----------7

Community Centre----5

Golf Course---------2

(please specify)

Would more adequate or a greater number of leisure time services reduce your population turnover?

Yes (5) No (19) Uncertain (9) (circle one)

Does your community have racial or ethnic conflicts?

Many---------- 0 Uncertain----------1

Some ---------- 4

Few ----------26 (circle one)

None---------- 3

Comments:

Of all of the problems listed in this section, which do you consider unique to living in the north?

Alcoholism----------2
Isolation----------2
Health Services----------3
Lack of Employment Opportunities for Young-2
High Cost of Living----------3
Housing----------4

Are there any other social issues you wish to raise?

More dialogue between government and Indian Groups-------2
Recreation----------1
Unemployment Insurance & Welfare too easy to obtain-----1
Great travel distances pose too many problems----------1

INDUSTRIAL

1. Please rank in order of importance, the following industries in your municipality:

	Type	Order of Importance #1	Order of Importance #2	Approx. No. of people Employed
a)	Education	1	6	
b)	Forestry & Timber Resources	14	9	
c)	Mining & Mineral Resources	7	0	
d)	Tourism and Recreation	2	4	
e)	Transportation & Communication	3	5	
f)	Government services (Federal, Provincial, and Local)	1	5	
g)	Other: Agriculture	5	0	

2. List any secondary industry that you may have. e.g. processing of ore, production of dimensional lumber, plywood, etc.

Please list the industries and indicate "important", "not important".

3. Do you feel that revenues contributed to your municipality by these industries are:

High	Moderate	Low	(circle one)
(5)	(14)	(11)	

4. How much do these types of tourism contribute to your community?

Type	Very Much	Something	Not Much
a) Hunting & Fishing Camps	8	11	12
b) Travellers and Sightseers	4	15	14
c) Cottagers	3	14	16
d) Other	0	2	8

Comments: (check one for each)

5. What is the most important type of tourism in your municipality?
   Travelling, sightseeting, camping----------10
   Hunting & Fishing----------15

6. What are other alternatives for development if further major heavy industrial enterprise does not materialize?

   1. Mining---------- 4
   2. Secondary Forest Industry---------- 5
   3. Light Manufacturing Industry---------- 6

7. Do you feel enough effort has been made to diversify and strengthen your local economy?

Yes	No	Uncertain	(circle one)
(2)	(24)	(8)	

8. Do you want major industrial development north of the 50th. parallel?

Yes	No	Uncertain	(circle one)
(22)	(8)	(4)	

If yes, what type of major industrial development do you prefer north of the 50th. parallel.

Process raw materials----------8

Mining----------6

By-Products of timber----------6

If Yes - Under what terms?

Environmental Protection----------11

Canadian Owned---------- 2

Local Employment---------- 2

If No - Why?

Should be below 50th parallel---------- 4

ENVIRONMENT

1. If environmental controls were to mean a halt in major industrial development, and produce a reduction in the standard of living, would you:

   a) Reject the industry? ----------7

   b) Accept a reduction in environmental controls?------12

   c) Uncertain?----------11

2. In your opinion, are current environmental controls:

   Too stiff:---------- 3

   Too loose?---------- 9

   Adequate and proper?----------12

   Uncertain?----------10

   (circle one)

3. What are the most important environmental problems you face in and around your immediate area?

   River & Lake Pollution----------13

   Reforestation---------- 2

   No Problems---------- 9

4. Are you satisfied with the way in which environmental controls are currently being enforced?

	(10) Yes	(10) No	(3) Uncertain
Should they be improved?	(15) Yes	(4) No	(15) Uncertain
Should they be relaxed?	(3) Yes	(13) No	(18) Uncertain

(circle one)

Comments:

Name the two municipalities that you consider to be the most important service centers for your community (in order of importance).

1. Thunder Bay----------19

2. Winnipeg----------11

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1. Do you feel that current regulations (environmental and other) properly apply to the north?

	Yes	No	Uncertain
a) Water supply	22	8	4
b) Sewage treatment	21	8	5
c) Air pollution	17	7	10
d) Noise	9	11	14
e) Road and traffic	13	15	6
f) Planning controls	11	17	6

Comments:

2. Do you feel that your community receives a proper share of:

	Yes	No	Uncertain
a) Federal revenues:	11	14	9
b) Provincial revenues:	14	16	4

3. If the answer to either a) or b) above is no, why do you feel this is so?

4. How much funding do you think you should have?

a) The same amount per capita (as the rest of Ontario) ---------- 3

b) More per capita than the (rest of Ontario) ----------27
Uncertain---------- 4

If yes - why?

(circle one)

5. What percent of municipal expenditures were covered by federal and provincial payments (grants, subsidies, etc.) in fiscal 1976?

_____%

6. Do you feel that the present system of federal and provincial payments allows you to plan your future municipal activities adequately?

	Yes	No	Uncertain	(circle one)
Comments:	(13)	(14)	(7)	

7. What recommendations do you have to change the present grant system, (if any)?

8. Do you feel that the federal government has:

a) Proper involvement in your municipal affairs?----------13

b) Not enough direction and supervision of your municipal affairs?---------- 3

c) Too much direction and supervision of your municipal affairs?---------- 3

d) Uncertain ----------15

9. Do you feel that the provincial government has:

a) Proper involvement in your municipal affairs?---------- 5

b) Not enough direction and supervision of your municipal affairs? ---------- 2

c) Too much direction and supervision of your municipal affairs?----------19

d) Uncertain---------- 8

ROLE OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

1. Do you consider the terms of reference adequate?

Yes	No	Uncertain	
(12)	(3)	(19)	(circle one)

2. If not, please indicate suggestions for changing them.

3. In your opinion, what are the five most important issues that the Royal Commission should be considering?

Northern Development----------11

Environment----------12

Native People---------- 2

4. Do you have any suggestions for the format of the hearings? (both the informal hearings in November and the later formal hearings).

5. Do you believe that this Royal Commission is necessary?

Yes	No	Uncertain	
(14)	(7)	(13)	(circle one)

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORCOM

NORTHWESTERN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FEDERATION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00305
File Number

245
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORCOM

NORTHWESTERN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FEDERATION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
55 BLOOR STREET WEST
ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
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EXHIBIT # 245

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TORONTO

S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt

by

NORCOM

NORTHWESTERN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FEDERATION

ERNEST F. BROSE, ENUNCIATOR

January 17. 1978

As Canadian citizens, living rather remotely in the north, we are growing more fearful day by day of the reality of the Canadian soil under our feet. Perhaps an anecdote will help relay our thoughts to you.

Once a year we afforded ourselves the pleasure of tripping north to do a little trout fishing on the long weekend in May. We flew into a northern lake some forty miles north of Kenora, only to find that when we taxied to a sand spit on the lake, that there was a shabby assortment of "pork and bean" cans squinting at us in the sun. We decided to clean the ideal camp site of the tin trash, most of it bearing the American label. After some latrine trenching of their waste and a few "damns", we decided to camp on site.

Some four years later, we decided to portage from a newly built road adjoining the same lake previously visited. To our chagrin, as we approached our former site, we found six buses and two trucks on the road adjacent to the sand spit, the ideal of a camping spot. These Americans and many who had preceded them, had so littered the site with cans and stench (excrement) that our itinerary made a sudden change. These "pork and beaners", as they are derisively refered to, caused yet another sequel to this account. Some five years later, Natural Resources using our money - not theirs - used a three-man clean-up crew complete with an "otter" (which we researched at $500.00 an hour) to clean the mess left by these pork-and-beaners.

In many ways, I have drawn for you in short a parallel of much of the pork-and-bean philosophy of the north-west. The American with his roll of bills will probably buy his way into the Canadian wilderness, squander our natural resources, while the weather is right, travel on our road-to-resources, pocket the cash from his clients or who payed his bank in Chicago to that only sufficient income would be shown mostly to cover his expenses; then leave the country temporarily for six months to bask in the southern sun, his employees left on welfare...or finally after he has raped the resources, leave the Canadian people with a debt from a government hand-out.

Our million dollar commercial fishing industry is in deep trouble. For years, this industry was applauded for its steadfastness but also for its tremendous contribution it made to the welfare of the fish balance for the benefit of our anglers.

Especially in the last ten years, as the American with his roll of bills started to dominate the campowner industry, his voice in the various media has become louder and louder. He pictures himself the Godfather of most of our natural resources, especially the game fish. If a Natural Resources biologist opposed his viewpoint too openly for any length of time, the campowner vowed that the biologist had to go...and before long, he was long gone. If he needed a series of outpost camps, contrary to policy he got them. If a local decision sat in his crop, he would lobby in Queen's Park. That decision would change, if not this year, then the next.

Of late, the American Campowner has decided that the commercial fishing industry must go. As you, Mr. Justice Hartt, read this informal brief, the commercial fishing industry is in its death throes. With the roll of green bills he flashes, he buys the copy that pads the stats that magnifies his injection of life-saving monies into the economy, while at the same time minimizing the year-round steadying influence on the economy of the commercial fishing industry.

I am sure that you have heard all this before. Then you have heard the truth...and remember: there are many Canadian campowners and even some Americans who unlike the above are living for tomorrow as well as for today. They will defend the commercial fishing industry at every turn for its year-round economy and contribution to fish balance of their lakes. But do you know, sir, that our provincial ministry of Natural Resources admits that (and I quote) "Whoever can make the most moise will gain the decisions of the ministry."

As we have studies the history of the American empire with its domination of country after country, we can understand how and that it was going to happen to us...and we might even forgive the Yankee for our gullibility. But we cannot forgive...

A government that will admit from the top down that decisions are made by and for those who make the most noise. Civil servants like to refer to hostile opinions of the average angler. To our knowledge, the average guy on the street has made neither plea, protest, nor petition to destroy the commercial fishing industry. Certainly none has found its way to the media.

Rather, we have a Ministry of Natural Resources that is in many ways bigger than the provincial government itself. Its allegiances are few. If it cares to listen to a vocal group of American dominated campowners, the ministry will do just that... and so it has.

We sincerely hope, sir, that you can bring the weight of your office to bear on those individuals who bear governmental responsibility, be they ministers of the crown, or civil servants,to insure that where the choice has to be made between accepting American capital to help the "pork-and-bean" development of the north and thereby selling our birthright for a mess of potash or soliciting rather hesitant investments of the Canadian, we must take the latter; for who says that the resources of Ontario have to be exploited all within a decade or two? Thank God our forefathers put our resources to use at a saner pace so that you and I can enjoy them today.

We thank you for your consideration of our thoughts. We accept the apologies of your office for its late confirmation of the acceptance of this brief, (December 7th); we ask you to bear with the ramblings of this brief, assembled at such short notice.

Northwestern Commercial Fisheries Federation,
NORCOM, Mr. E. F. Brose, Enunciator.

Remember, Alice, that you can put this in your own terms..... or you can, after reading the brief, formulate your own approach to this statement:

Mr. Justice Hartt
Members of the Audience:

It is a privelege to speak to this commission today. Sometimes ninety-nine times out of a hundred, either the brief doesn't catch the interest of a commissioner, the brief does not speak clearly, or even a commissioner somehow doesn't get the message. I hope today all of us "get the message" of what our brief is saying, so Northwestern Ontario with all its rigours (hardships) will be a better place in which to live for centuries to come.

Mr. Justice, I am here representing the Northwestern Commercial Fisheries Federation, an organization serving the commercial Fishermen. I am an executive of that body.

Commercial fishermen, since the turn of the century, have been one of the most respected peoples of the northern community, respected for their hard work, for their initiative, for their rugged nature. When we throw a social, we have peoples from every walk of life in attendance. We put on no airs. We live year round and make our contribution to our economy.

But of late, the picture is changing. American interests have come in....and as they have done through the entire world, they exploit not only what they have paid for with their big roll of bills, but they cannot seem to rest until they have dominated everyone else. The Good Book says, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house nor his goods." The American campowner has never heard that Truth.

The Campowner appears in the Miner News on CJRL and tells everyone what has to happen to our Natural Resources. He thinks of himself as God's gift to Canadian nature. "Yankee, go home." is heard throughout the world. Peoples throughout the world know his exploitations. The people of Sudbury understand what I am saying. They hate him for his bombast. They hate him

for his philosophy of "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." And yet we have a great disgust..we have a greater frustration...we have an even greater hatred for our own government...a government that is so conceited, so pompous, so proud that when the American campowner says, Jump they jump....even when (as the old Swede said.."There is no place to stood."

If the head of Natural Resources were here, he would say, "Balderdash."

Mr. Justice Hartt, I ask you to be a just judge. Judge for yourself. The last few Campowners meetings saw no parking signs put up outside the Campowners Meetings because you couldn't find a parking spot for all the "green cars and trucks" in attendance. The government's motto, "Keep Ontario green" applies only to Campowner's, American-dominated Campowners' Meetings.....and what about Commercial Fishermen's meetings, Has Mr. Bernier ever attended one of our meetings, althought he was invited five times? No never. The last time we invited Mr. Bernier, or The local Head of Lands and Forests or The head of the Fish Divion or.... etc etc. There wasn't one green car showed up at our annual meeting. Finally little Peter walked in.....His words of assurance during the meeting were: "I don't know why. I don't know why."

And some of the fishermen wouldn't dare say what I am saying here today. For tomorrow they may be asked to move a dock because the Ministry needs the site or loose a few thousand pounds of fish quota, or have your white fish degraded as continentals.

Mr. Justice, would you like to raise a Canadian family, an Ontario family in such an environment. Would you like to live a life of fear, or humiliation, of frustration, where your own government ministry is so powerful that it has to answer to no one except to those who have the money?

Mr. Justice, You must love your country to do what you are doing. When you hear what I have said, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. We will stand by this statement. We can give you more proof if you need it.

We thank you for the opportunity to address this body.

We will be more thankful if you can save our industry the Commercial Fishing Industry from its doom on January 1st of this year. The American Campowner has the guillotine ready. Natural Resources will deliver the eulogy.

Thank you kindly

Mrs. Alice Longe

Sequel:

As a fitting sequel to the worst of our fears (which fears had been expressed many times at the various meeting that the Fishermen organization held to deal with the problem of setting quotas), the government proved to us once more and in dramatic fashion that

A. the meetings that were called by Ministry to help officialdom making meaningful decisions that would accomodate at least part of the democratic process of government by the people was just so much "window dressing". As we all agreed at our meetings, called by the fishermen, the meetings called by government to gain public input are a waste of time, taxpayer's money, as well as an insult to the intelligence of people. You see, decisions had already been influenced and sealed by the "wise men in the far east."

B. fair play for each person is no longer the motto of government. It depends on who you are or the you know or what you can contribute. The fishermen unanimously asked for equal distribution of the resource. The government set the quotas about as unequal as they cared. The government will give you reasons, but they are as unfundamental as most of their scruples.

C. out of any situation, no matter how trying, no matter how unscrupulous, must come some learning. The fishermen think that that approach as used by the Indian community was by far the best. In fact, we hear the slogan by many people in the north. Where the slogan used to read, "Go west, young man." it now reads, "Go native". To explain somewhat: The Ministry called a meeting at one of the reserves. The Greenshirts were out in all their finery. The only catch was that the only ones in attendance were

the Ministry officials. The native people decided not to attend. We understand that finally one Indian chap appeared to deliver a statement as to what the Indian people are going to do.

Perhaps that is the direction modern society is going. Do your own thing. Let the government do its own thing. Perhaps, some day, participatory government will be the result.

So if you hear fishermen adopt the slogan, "Go native" there is not the slightest derision in the principle, that has to work in superior fashion to what the government used as its principle, remember publically stated,

"Whoever can make the most noise will get the favorable decision."

That principle is a farce.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978



ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00306
File Number

246
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

Lake of the Woods Pow-
Wow Club
P.O. Box 1040
Kenora, Ontario

PRESENTED AT

Kenora

on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
55 BLOOR STREET WEST
ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
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No. 246
Royal Commission on the Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by Lake of the Woods Pow-Wow Club BOX 1045 KENORA, ONTARIO
this 6 day of Jan. 1978

man Joe Morrison
Treas. Nancy Morrison

LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB

MR. JUSTICE HARTT, MEMBERS OF THE INQUIRY, BROTHERS.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO HEAR WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY TODAY.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE HUMAN AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS OF REAL CONCERN TO US, TOO.

BUT, FIRST LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB. WE ARE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO MEET AROUND THE DRUM. WE PARTICIPATE IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONIALS AND DANCING, AND GAIN INNER STRENGTH FROM THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM EACH OTHER. THE ENTIRE FAMILY IS ACTIVE IN OUR GROUP, FROM THE YOUNGEST TO OUR ELDERS. IT IS NOT THE INDIAN WAY TO KEEP MEMBERSHIP LISTS BUT AT SOME OF OUR FESTIVALS WE HAVE OVER 300 PARTICIPATING.

WE RECEIVE NO FUNDING OR GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR OUR NORMAL OPERATION. FREE WILL OFFERINGS OR RAFFLES AND BINGO ARE THE WAYS WE RAISE OUR MONIES.

NO ONE IS PAID ANY SALARY OR RECEIVES ANY STIPEND OF ANY KIND FOR THE WORK WE DO. WE AID PEOPLE WHO HAVE MISFORTUNE - LIKE A HOUSE FIRE OR WHO ARE UNABLE TO MEET A FUEL-OIL BILL IN MIDWINTER AND NO ONE

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LAKE OF THE WOODS
POW-WOW
CLUB

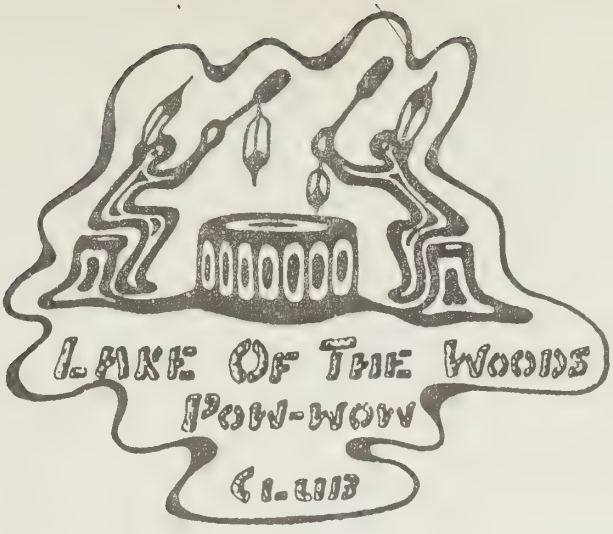
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ELSE WILL HELP THEM AND THINGS LIKE THIS. A LOT OF PEOPLE TURN TO US, BUT USUALLY WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

SINCE WE ARE HEADQUARTERED IN KENORA, AND HAVE MEMBERS AND CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE ON THE 23 RESERVES THAT COME TO KENORA FOR SHOPPING AND SERVICES, WE ARE VERY FAMILIAR WITH LIFE AND CONDITIONS AS THEY EXIST IN AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN AND STILL IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE NATURAL RESOURCES BEING EXPLOITED - MAINLY BY LARGE CORPORATIONS.

WE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT GREATLY BENEFITED FROM THIS EXPLOITATION. THE GRAND PROMISES AND VISIONS MADE BY THOSE WHO PREPARE TO ENTER AND "DEVELOP" AN AREA - IF DEVELOP IS THE CORRECT WORD TO USE- WHICH WE NOW QUESTION - THESE VISIONS AND GRAND PROMISES MADE BY THESE PEOPLE BEFORE GETTING THEIR LICENSE TO EXPLOIT, SEEM TO FADE LIKE THE RAINBOW DOES AS THE SUN DISAPPEARS BEHIND THE CLOUD - GRADUALLY, BUT DEFINATELY. THERE ARE MANY CLOUDS, MR. JUSTICE HARTT, THAT SEEM TO COME BETWEEN US AND THE PROMISED "POT OF GOLD" AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW. IN FACT, WE FEEL THAT IT ISN'T ONLY THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF TIMBER AND THE LIKE THAT ARE BEING EXPLOITED IN OUR AREA BY THE LARGE CORPORATIONS. WE NOT ONLY DO NOT FIND THAT PROMISED POT OF GOLD WHEN WE SEARCH - AND WE DO SEARCH - BUT WE FIND THAT WE, THE PEOPLE - ANISHINABE - ARE ONE OF THE THINGS THEY FEEL CAN BE SHOVED

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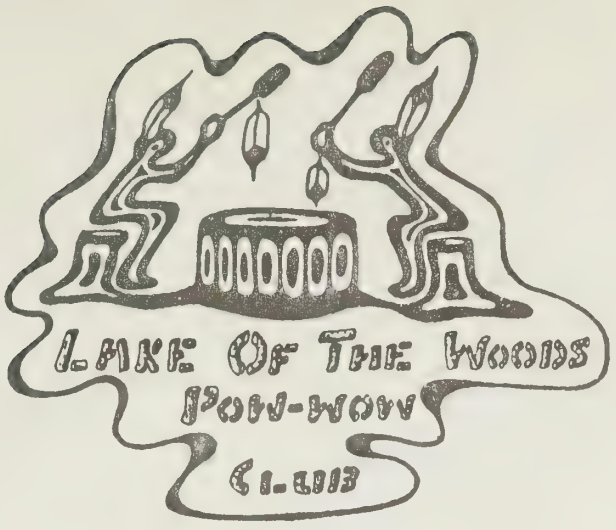
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ASIDE AS THEY RUSH IN TO TAKE AWAY AND EXPLOIT WHAT HAS BEEN SOME OF OUR HERITAGE. NOTHING ALIVE CAN ESCAPE THE TOUCH AND PRESENCE OF A LARGE CORPORATION MOVING INTO AN AREA. THE TREES, THE PEOPLE, THE STONES, THE AIR, THE WATER, ALL THINGS. YES, EVEN WHAT YOU CONSIDER DEAD CAN NOT ESCAPE ITS SUFFICATING PRESENCE WHEN IT MOVES IN.

WE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB ARE NOT THOSE WHO SIT ON TOWN COUNCIL, HAVE JOBS AT THE MILL, RUN OUR OWN BUSINESSES, HAVE BANK ACCOUNTS, USE CHARGEX OR MASTERCHARGE, FLY FIRST CLASS, OR WHO ARE EVEN TEACHERS OF OUR OWN CHILDREN. NO, RATHER MANY OF US ARE THOSE OFTEN REPORTED IN STATISTICS. WE ARE THE NAME-LESS AND THE FORGOTTEN, ALTHOUGH WE ARE OFTEN CALLED NAMES AND TITLES THAT WE HEAR AND DISLIKE. WE ARE OFTEN SEEN BUT NEVER REALLY HEARD. WE TALK - IN MANY WAYS WE TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU, BUT ARE NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD. WE FEEL THAT WE ARE OFTEN USED BY THOSE WHO HAVE A PET PROJECT THEY WOULD PROMOTE THEN ARE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN AND OVER-LOOKED WHEN THEIR NEED OF US NO LONGER EXISTS. AS AGAIN NOW, AT THE PRESENT TIME. "LOOK" IT IS STATED, "LOOK AT THE EMPLOYMENT IT WILL GIVE TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF THE AREA." "LOOK, AT HOW MANY BENEFITS IT WILL GIVE TO THEM." WE SEE THROUGH THAT AS WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IT MANY TIMES BEFORE. WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. WE KNOW WHAT JOBS, IF ANY, WILL BE OFFERED TO US. WE KNOW WHAT "BENEFITS" WILL REALLY BE

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BOX 1040
KENORA, ONTARIO

OURS AS A RESULT OF WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED BY REED.

THE REASON, THEREFORE, ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB IS THAT WE FEEL THE NEED TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO MERELY EXIST. TO WHOM CAN WE TURN WHEN IT IS AFTER THE HOUR OF 5 O'CLOCK? WHEN THOSE WHOSE JOBS ARE DEPENDENT UPON US GO HOME TO THEIR PAVED STREETS, WITH STREET LIGHTING, AND COMFORTABLE HOMES AND WITH THE POLICE TO SEE THAT THEY ARE NOT DISTURBED? THEIR "PROBLEMS" - MEANING US - ARE OUT OF SIGHT AND MIND. ARE WE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE NO HURTS AFTER 5 O'CLOCK? SO THEY WILL NOT BE INCONVENIENCED? OR IS IT ONLY THE POLICE OR THE AMBULANCE TO WHOM WE CAN TURN - THAT WILL RESPOND TO OUR CALL AFTER HOURS? MUST WE BE EITHER LAW-BREAKERS OR CASUALTIES BEFORE WE ARE NOTICED?

SO WE OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS POW-WOW CLUB MEET TO GIVE SUPPORT TO ONE ANOTHER.

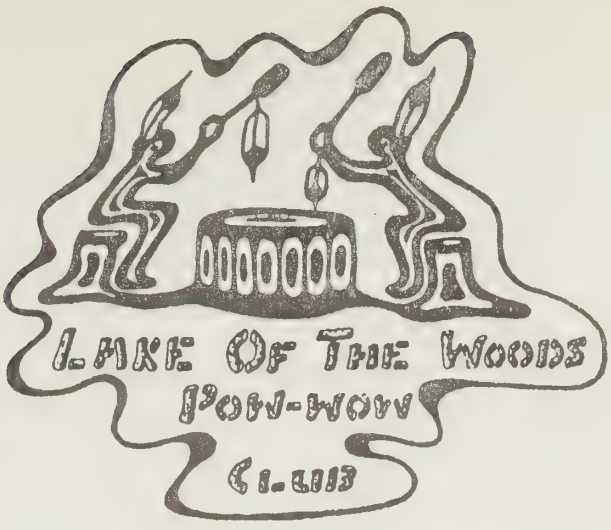
THERE IS A STORY OF A LITTLE DUTCH BOY WHO DISCOVERED A LEAK IN THE DIKE WHICH THREATENED TO GET LARGE AND WOULD DESTROY MANY HOMES AND LIVES AND WHO KEPT HIS FINGER IN THE HOLE UNTIL HELP CAME. SOMETIMES WE FEEL LIKE THAT LITTLE BOY, ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE HOLE IS GETTING LARGER, HUGE CRACKS ARE APPEARING IN THE WALL, AND WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO PLUG THE LEAK. IT ALSO SEEMS TO US THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE SIGN THAT HELP IS COMING. THAT ANYONE HEARS OUR

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BOX 1040
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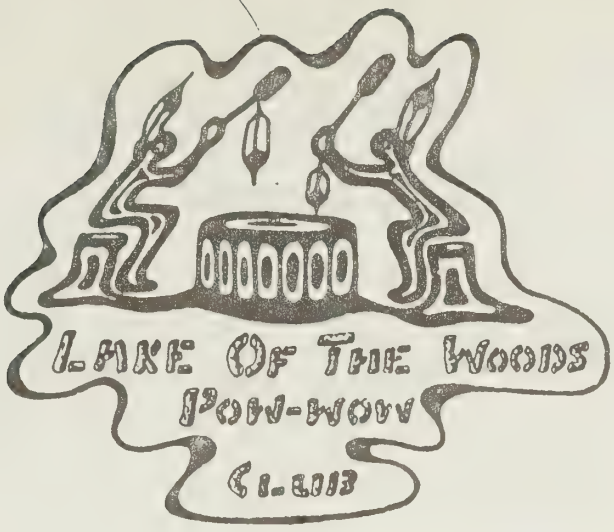
CRIES FOR HELP. TELL US, MR. JUSTICE HARTT, TELL US PLAINLY - IS HELP COMING? OR IS EVEN THIS WHOLE INQUIRY PART OF A GAME WHERE NOTHING CHANGES EXCEPT THE PLAYERS AND THINGS KEEP GETTING WORSE FOR US?

WE DO NOT LIKE THE CONDITIONS THAT MANY OF US FIND OURSELVES IN. WE DID NOT PLAN TO LIVE ON HAND-OUTS, CALLED WELFARE, NOR DO WE WANT TO DO SO TODAY. WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO HAVE OUR CHILDREN ROAM THE STREETS OF KENORA TO GET INTO TROUBLE AND INSULTED. WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE BURDENS OR PROBLEMS TO ANYBODY. WE DO NOT CHOOSE TO HAVE OUR CHILDREN SEE US AS PEOPLE OF NO-ACCOUNT. NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR PRESENT CONDITION.

WE DID NOT KNOW - WHEN THE TREATIES WER SIGNED - THAT YOU WOULD LATER - WITHOUT CONSULTING US - CHOOSE TO REGULATE THE WATER IN THE RIVERS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF HYDRO - NOT OUR NEEDS...IGNORING THE NATURAL RISE AND FALL OF THE WATER ACCORDING TO SEASONS AND THE RAINFALL THAT THE GREAT SPIRIT PROVIDES. AND THEREBY EFFECTIVELY DESTROYING MUCH OF OUR WILD RICE SUPPLY. OUR FOOD SUPPLY. IS WELFARE REALLY PAYMENT-IN-KIND FOR WHAT WAS TAKEN AWAY? DESTROYED? IT WAS NOT PUT INTO THE TREATIES THAT HYDRO HAD THAT RIGHT. WE DID NOT KNOW THAT BUSINESSES MEETING THEIR NEEDS - NOT OURS - THEIR NEED FOR MORE PROFIT - WOULD PUT MERCURY AND OTHER POLUTENTS INTO OUR WATERS

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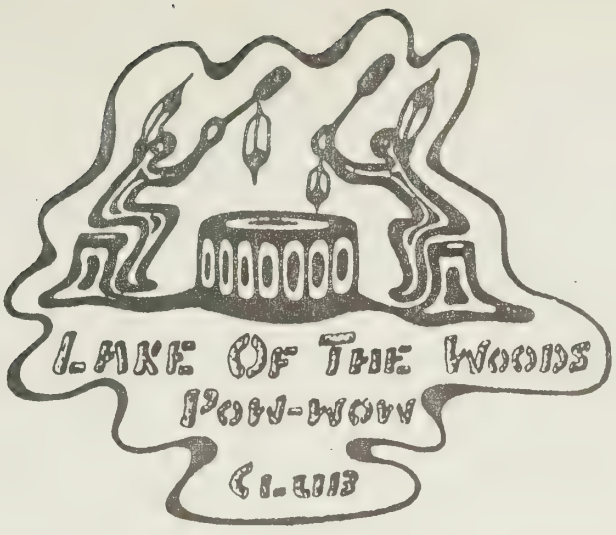
- MAKING THE FISH UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION - ALTHOUGH WE ARE TOLD THAT IT IS JUST UNFIT FOR INDIANS TO EAT - AND OTHERS - SPORTSMAN - CAN GO ON FISHING AND EATING... BUT THAT RIGHT TO SO POLUTE OUR WATERS WITH POISON WAS NOT WRITTEN IN OUR TREATIES WHICH WE SIGNED.

NOR WAS IT WRITTEN THAT LARGE CORPORATIONS WOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO DESTROY THE HUGE FORESTS THAT ARE THE HOME OF OUR GAME AND FUR-BEARING ANIMALS. DO THOSE WHO GIVE SUCH PRIVILEGES TO THESE LARGE CORPORATIONS EXPECT THE DEER AND THE MOOSE TO LIVE AND EAT THE FOOD THEY FIND ON OUR 2 x 4 RESERVES? DOES THE CORPORATION REALLY EXPECT THE RIVER THEY HAVE POLLUTED (ON THEIR PROPERTY - IN THEIR MILLS) - TO SUDDENLY CLEANSE ITSELF WHEN IT HITS THE EDGE OF THEIR PROPERTY? OR WHEN IT COMES TO THE RESERVE BOUNDARY? HOW FOOLISH TO BELIEVE THAT I OR ANY CORPORATION HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS BEYOND MY FENCED PROPERTY.

IT IS ALSO VERY CLEAR TO US THAT THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY REED WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO THE PARTICULAR TRACT OF LAND THEY ASK FOR. NOR WILL IT BE CONFINED TO A PARTICULAR LINE DRAWN ON A MAP - SUCH AS ABOVE THE 50th PARALLEL. AND WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THERE MUST BE SOME ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CARING FOR OUR RESOURCES - INCLUDING PEOPLE - OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN YET TO BE BORN - OTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN TRIED UP

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BOX 1040
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UNTIL NOW. WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THESE THINGS. BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING AND EXPERIENCING THINGS WHICH ARE NOT GOOD.

THE RECENT (1977) REPORT BY GIESBRECT AND BROWN OF THE ONTARIO ADDICTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION ENTITLED " ALCOHOL PROBLEMS IN NORTH-WESTERN ONTARIO - PRELIMINARY REPORT" STATES: "THE KENORA DISTRICT WAS FOUND TO HAVE THE HIGHEST PER CAPITA ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION, THE HIGHEST RATE OR ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS FOR LIQUOR OFFENCES, THE HIGHEST RATE OF ALCOHOL DIAGNOSED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES, AND THE HIGHEST RATE OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS AND VIOLENCE. FOR EXAMPLE BETWEEN 1971 AND 1974, 24 PER CENT OF THE DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT WERE DUE TO ACCIDENTAL OR VIOLENT CASES, COMPARED TO 9 PER CENT FOR THE PROVINCE." JUST ONE MORE OBSERVATION FROM THAT REPORT - AS YOU CAN READ THE WHOLE THING FOR YOURSELF: "IN 1969, THE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION OF THE KENORA DISTRICT WAS 16 PER CENT ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL AVERAGE, IN 1974 - JUST 5 YEARS LATER, IT WAS 34 PER CENT ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL AVERAGE". MR. JUSTICE HARTT, THESE BRIEF STATEMENTS FROM THIS ONE REPORT GIVE YOU SOME INDICATION OF WHAT MANY OF US KNOW FIRST HAND AND WHICH YOU CAN NEVER FULLY UNDERSTAND BECAUSE YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED IT AS WE HAVE. THESE ARE NOT JUST STATISTICS TO US. MANY OF THESE ARE OUR OWN BROTHERS AND SISTER, CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF OUR OWN FAMILIES. ALL OF THIS IS CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED IN

LAKE OF THE WOODS
POW-WOW
CHIEFS

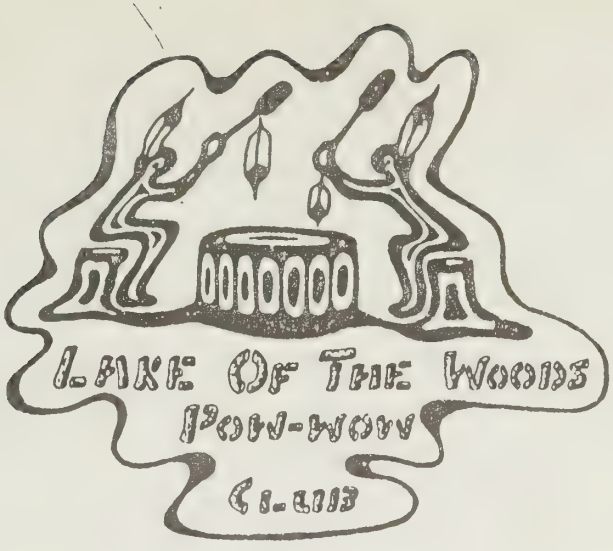
BOX 1040
KENORA, ONTARIO

YET ANOTHER REPORT WHICH WE OURSELVES AND OTHERS WORKED ON, DETAILING SPECIFICALLY THIS KENORA COMMUNITY. IT IS ENTITLED WHILE PEOPLE SLEEP. AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THESE THINGS ARE CONTINUING DOWN TO TODAY, MR. JUSTICE HARTT. AND WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE SOME OF THESE SAME MISTAKES AND CONDITIONS, HURTS, REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN OTHER AREAS. THIS IS THE REASON WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU IN THIS WAY.

WE HEAR OF ATTEMPTS BEING MADE - WITH SOME SUCCESS - "UP NORTH" THAT IS, AT BIG TROUT, SANDY LAKE, BEARSKIN LAKE, MUSKRAT DAM, ANGLING LAKE, PIKANGIKUM, WUNNUMMIN LAKE, KINGFISHER LAKE, ROUND LAKE, FT. SEVERN, AND OTHER SETTLEMENTS - PLACES WHERE OUR PEOPLE STILL HAVE ENOUGH CONTROL OVER THEIR LIVES AND COMMUNITIES TO BAN THE BRINGING IN OF ALCOHOL IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. THIS SINGLE ACT HAS GREATLY ENHANCED THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR COUNTLESS PEOPLE. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR BROTHERS IF THIS SO CALLED DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE UP THERE AND OTHERS MAKE THESE DECISIONS FOR THEM? WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. LIQUOR WILL FLOW AND THERE WILL BE NO WAY OF STOPPING IT. CAN IT IN TRUTH BE CALLED DEVELOPMENT WHEN THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE ARE WORSENED RATHER THAN BETTERED FOR THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING? WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. IN FACT, THOSE WHO ARE CHOOSING TO IGNORE THE WISHES OF THESE NORTHERN COMMUN-

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BOX 1040
KENORA, ONTARIO

ITIES WE MENTIONED AND ARE BOOTLEGGING ALCOHOL ARE THE "BIG SHOTS" OF OUTSIDE CONTROL AGENCIES AND THEY ARE CAUSING GREAT PROBLEMS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO ARE TRYING TO DEAL RESPONSIBLY WITH A DIFFICULT SOCIAL PROBLEM. WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN THAT, MR. JUSTICE HARTT? CAN'T THEY GET ALONG WITHOUT THEIR ADDICTION - THEIR PROBLEM FOR AS LONG AS THEY ARE ON OUR RESERVES? WHICH IS USUALLY AS SOON AS THE NEXT PLANE LEAVES ANYWAY. BUT OUR PEOPLE UP NORTH CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES IN THAT MATTER.

SOME OF US WERE MEMBERS OF SEVERAL INDIAN OWNED AND OPERATED SMALL CORPORATIONS IN THIS AREA, LARGELY ENGAGED IN THE CUTTING AND MARKETING OF PULPWOOD. WE TOOK PRIDE IN OUR WORK AND WHAT WE COULD ACCOMPLISH. AND THERE WAS DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR FAMILIES AND ON OUR RESERVES AS WE BEGAN TO FEED AND CLOTHE OUR OWN FAMILIES. NO ONE BUT US CAN TELL YOU THE JOY AND UPLIFT WE KNEW AND EXPERIENCED KNOWING THAT WE WERE, IN SOME REAL SENSE, MAKING OUR OWN WAY.

WE ALSO KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO STRUGGLE TO BECOME "VIABLE" WHEN THE BEST TIMBER OF THE AREA IS RESERVED FOR THE LARGE CORPORATIONS AND YOU ARE ASSIGNED ALLOTMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THEM ONLY BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT HARVEST THEM PROFITABLY. IN FACT, SOME OF US WERE EXPECTED TO BE HAPPY WHEN WE WERE GIVEN A TRACT TO "CLEAN UP" WHERE THE COMPANY HAD ALREADY GONE THROUGH WITH THEIR WORK CREWS AND

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LAKE OF THE WOODS
POW-WOW
CLUB

BOX 1040
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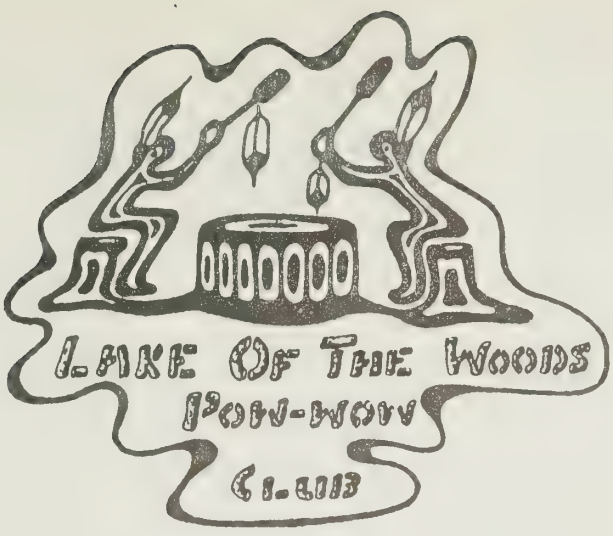
MACHINES. AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THIS TYPE OF THINKING IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE IN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA AS REED HAS REDUCED THE SIZE OF TERRITORY ASKED FOR BECAUSE ONE LARGE SECTION WAS DISCOVERED TO BE "UNSUITABLE." IF THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED HERE AND ELSEWHERE HOLD TRUE, UNDOUBTABLY THAT AREA FOUND UNSUITABLE FOR THE REED CORPORATION WILL BE THE AREA ASSIGNED TO AN INDIAN COMPANY. THEN THERE WILL BE THOSE WHO WILL BE QUICK TO JUDGE ALL INDIANS AND POINT THE FINGER BECAUSE IT FAILED TO BECOME "VIABLE."

MR. JUSTICE HARTT. THESE ARE SOME OF THE CONDITIONS THAT ARE OF CONCERN TO US. WE FIND THAT WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF OUR LIVES IN ANY WAY. THE POLICE BECOME OUR ENEMIES. THE BOOTLEGER IS SEEN AS OUR FRIEND. AND THE WATER AND RAILROAD TRACKS BECKON AS A QUICK AND WELCOME RELEASE. AND WE HATE IT. WE HATE IT AND HATE OURSELVES AND TAKE OUT OUR ANGER ON EACH OTHER. JAIL AND THE HOSPITAL, RECEIVING HOME AND TRAINING SCHOOL AND FOSTER HOME BECOME THE COMMON EXPERIENCES SHARED BY OUR CHILDREN, NOT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY. NOT WORK AND HOMES THAT WE ARE PROUD OF. NOT A COMMUNITY OF KENORA WHICH WE ARE PROUD TO CALL OUR HOME.

AND PLEASE DON'T RECOMMEND ANOTHER AGENCY. ALREADY WE HAVE OVER 50 AGENCIES WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TO ASSIST US. ASSIST US?!! THEY RATHER CONFUSE US AND LIVE OFF US. AND THEY SEEM TO "WORK" WITH

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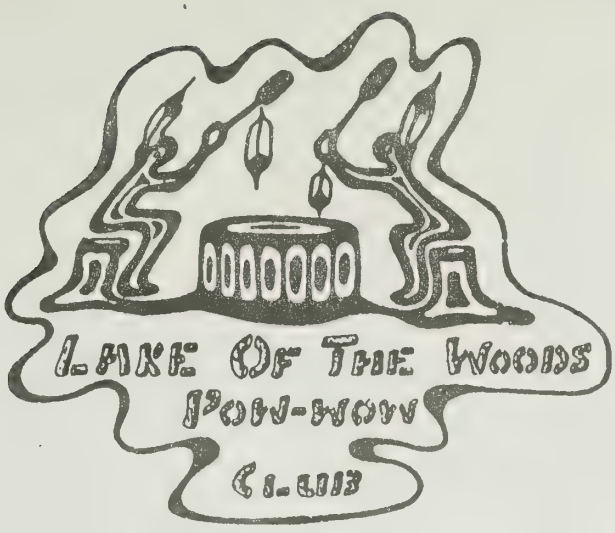
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PAPER - NOT WITH US - SHUFFLING US BETWEEN ONE AGENCY AND ANOTHER, AND THEN COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT THEY FIND US AND OUR PROBLEMS. WE SUGGEST THEY LOOK TO THEMSELVES AND SOME OF THE THINGS THEY ARE DOING TO US THAT ARE CAUSING SOME OF OUR PROBLEMS NOT MAKING THEM BETTER.

WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HEARD. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN WE ASK FOR MORE INQUESTS. BECAUSE WE ARE DISATISFIED WITH THE NUMBER AND WAY THEY ARE CONDUCTED. WHY ARE THEY AFRAID TO CONDUCT THESE AND REALLY DIG INTO THE CAUSES OF SOME OF THESE DEATHS AND "ACCIDENTS"? IS COVER-UP REALLY THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH ANY TROUBLE SPOT? AND WHEN WE ASK THESE THINGS WE DON'T WANT SILENCE AND NO ACTION OR SOME VAGUE REASON GIVEN WHICH IS EVIDENTLY A SUITABLE ANSWER TO YOUR REASONING - NOT OURS.

WHEN WE ARE TOLD THAT THE FISH IS POISON AND "DON'T EAT IT" WE EXPECT THAT TO HOLD TRUE FOR EVERYBODY - NOT JUST INDIANS. WE DON'T EXPECT TO SEE OTHERS PERMITTED TO EAT. DOESN'T POISON AFFECT ALL PEOPLE THE SAME? AGAIN, THE "REASONS" GIVEN DON'T SEEM TO US TO MAKE SENSE AND ARE MORE OF A COVER-UP FOR SOME OTHER, HIDDEN MOTIVE. WE USED TO CALL IT - SPEAKING WITH FORKED TONGUE. WE KNOW THE TOURIST DOLLAR IS OF SOME IMPORTANCE IN OUR AREA. WE KNOW THAT INDUSTRY IS TOO. BUT ARE EITHER MORE IMPORTANT THAN LIVES?

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WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE FIRST MEETINGS OF YOUR INQUIRY ARE ONLY TO RECEIVE SOME OF OUR CONCERNS. AND THAT IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN AND SPEAK FURTHER AND IN MORE DETAIL SO THAT SOME ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO HELP US AND ALSO TO AVOID MAKING THESE SAME MISTAKES UP NORTH IN AN AREA WHERE OUR BROTHERS LIVE.

THANK YOU.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO CONSERVATION FEDERATION
Zone One - The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00307
File Number

247
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
CONSERVATION FEDERATION
Zone One - The Ontario
Federation of Anglers and
Hunters

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
55 BLOOR STREET WEST
ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4W 1A5

Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation

ZONE ONE

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS INCORPORATED

January 1978

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PATRICK HARTT

AND THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

No. 247

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Federation of Anglers and Hunters
this 17 day of Jan 19 78

Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country---its soil and minerals, its waters, forests and wildlife.



Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation

ZONE ONE

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS INCORPORATED

My name is Lee Doyle. I am a charter member and past president of Lake of the Woods Gun Club, an active member of the Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation, and Environmental Committee Chairman for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this Commission to our affiliate organizations and to our areas of concern.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is an approximately 17,000 member organization in Ontario. It is made up of over 275 affiliate clubs, fifty of which are in the North. Twelve of these clubs form Zone I, Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation. Zone I is bounded by the Manitoba border to the west, White River to the east, with the northern boundary being undefined, which places Zone I Clubs directly amidst the area of concern. In addition, we are working in close co-operation with our national affiliate, The Canadian Wildlife Federation, an organization of better than 320,000 members.

Our members are vitally interested in conservation, and, unlike most of the other wilderness-user organizations, have a reputation for unselfish recommendations to the Ministry on conservation measures. To quote Frank S. Miller, our Minister of Natural Resources:

> "...much of what we have achieved over the past 50 years is due to the dialogue which began in 1928 between the former Department of Lands and Forests and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and which carries on today with the Ministry of Natural Resources."

We are well aware of the special nature of the North relative to its development and use, and feel we can contribute meaningful and very valuable input to this Commission over the next three years. We pledge our co-operation and invite you to call on us for information, views, recommendations, validations, etc. at any time. We also ask that we be kept fully informed on any matters of

Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil and minerals, its waters, forests and wildlife.



interest to us as conservationists, and most important, as anglers and hunters. We expect to be holding meetings to clarify the feelings of our membership as various important issues arise.

The existing renewable resource information available for this area is sparse and antiquated. We understand that the Forest and Wildlife inventory now being conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources will be made available to us as soon as possible. We expect to apply the expertise available through our organizations, including the advice of the Field Biologist presently employed by Zone 5 of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, to do a comprehensive study of the whole area in question in order that we may make a substantial contribution to the final report of this Commission, and that of the West Patricia District Land Use Plan.

We are convinced that meaningful management is the key issue in the North and we are not mistaking preservation for conservation - the preservationists would exclude all use except possibly their own. We have seen many bad decisions in the past that have been made, with the best of intentions, in the name of preservation and/or conservation. We lean toward the concept of wisely managed multiple use of all our renewable resources. The feasibility of this concept has been aptly proven in other areas. The key ~~are~~ *is* the proposed forest and game management objectives. We would like to be instrumental in formulating those objectives.

We will avoid involvement in controversy over Native land claims, development site locations, economic feasibility, etc. except where they affect our future as conservationists, anglers, and hunters.

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Our areas of concern are:

1. Forest and wildlife regeneration, management, and control.
2. The immediate and future effect of any development on wildlife and their habitat, both land and water.
3. All possible forms of pollution.
4. Road access control, game and fish regulatory measures, and enforcement.
5. All wilderness, National and Provincial park proposals in this area.

We welcome this Commission to our communities, and look forward to working with your members in the future to clarify our particular needs, and hopefully, to provide you with some meaningful positive input for your final report to the Ministry.

Attached, please find a mailing list of key people within our Organizations who would appreciate obtaining any pertinent information you may deem advisable to forward during the course of your inquiry.

Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country--its soil and minerals, its waters, forests and wildlife.



Lee Doyle, O.F.A.H. Environmental Committee Chairman
213-A Main Street South
Kenora, Ontario.

Harold Usher, O.F.A.H. Environmental Committee
149 Van Horne Avenue
Dryden, Ontario P8N 2B9

John Schimmel, O.F.A.H. Environmental Committee
#24, 1141 Minto Avenue
Kenora, Ontario.

Ed Burstaler, Chairman Northwestern Ontario Conservation Federation
Zone 1, O.F.A.H.
R.R.#I, Box I
Dryden, Ontario P8N 2Y4

Fred Luff, President, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
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Oakville, Ontario L6L 3X3

Rick Morgan, Executive Director
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
P.O. Box 28
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Y5

George A. Clavelle, President, Canadian Wildlife Federation
92 Ferndale
St. Vital, Manitoba

Henry Rasmussen, President, Lake of the Woods Gun Club
621 Second Street South
Kenora, Ontario P9N 1H2

Conservation Pledge

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SUBMISSION TO
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT
BY

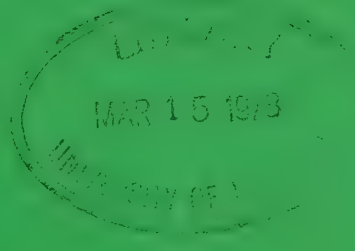
ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978





ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00182
File Number

248
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
400 University Avenue
12th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1T7

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
55 BLOOR STREET WEST
ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4W 1A5

SUBMISSION FROM: ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

TO: ROYAL COMMISSION ON NORTHERN ONTARIO

December 12, 1977

The Ontario Human Rights Commission appreciates your invitation to present some observations which might aid you in conducting your most important deliberations on future development north of the fiftieth parallel, as it relates to the social, economic, and cultural conditions that influence man and the life of man or a community.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission administers the Ontario Human Rights Code, and is responsible for furthering the "public policy" that all people in Ontario are equal in dignity and rights without regard to race, colour, creed, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry and place of origin.

In the years since the Commission began working with Northern communities, our staff have found that this part of our Province appears to have been developed without full regard for the spirit of this principle.

All too often, development in Northern Ontario has taken place without sufficient consideration for its impact on the environment and in turn, on those people who have traditionally drawn their livelihood from it. The Indian and Metis people north of 50 are only two of a number of groups who are concerned that poorly planned industrial and resource development will destroy their environment and thereby erode their lifestyle.

In the more southern areas of Northern Ontario, Native peoples are able to cite severe economic losses to their communities because hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding and wild rice harvesting have been undermined by the destruction of land, lakes and rivers. Near Kenora, for example, entire communities have lost their principal sources of income, but their members have received neither adequate compensation, nor workable occupational or economic alternatives.

In the result, Native peoples have found themselves ill-equipped to compete occupationally, economically and socially with those who constitute the majority cultural groups. Past disadvantages have denied them the opportunity to develop the skills to participate in the new social, economic, and cultural mileus. The resulting disparities in material well-being, and self and group esteem between the Native and majority cultures, have contributed significantly to high rates of crime, alcoholism and family breakdown in Native communities.

Moreover, many Native people believe their own efforts and achievements cannot conduce to their acceptance by the majority, despite the best efforts of their organizations to build solidarity, re-affirm faith in Native values, and develop innovative social programmes.

The people living in the remote parts of Northern Ontario are aware of these problems in the south and are determined that their communities will not suffer a similar outcome from new economic development.

They recognize that isolation from the mainstream has exacted a price in terms of material gain and the availability of the services which others find commonplace. But they also recognize that lack of development has helped to protect their independence and cultural integrity.

It would be beyond the area of our expertise, to recommend whether or not any further development north of the 50th parallel should take place, or where it should occur. We maintain, however, that any new development must be planned with the fullest consideration for the human rights, dignity, and social and economic well being of those individuals, groups and communities whose lives will in some way be touched by it.

Statistics paint a bleak portrait of life chances in Northern Ontario. Housing is woefully substandard and lacks the most basic amenities. Over 80% of Indian people live on an income that is below the poverty level, and its primary source is social assistance. Life expectancy is eight years below non-natives. The number of violent deaths is three times the national average. Indians comprise five per cent of our population, but make up as much as 50 per cent of the prison population at any given time. The average Indian student quits school by the end of grade nine.

Native people and their leaders want to know if development north of the 50th parallel is going to address itself to these facts, rather than simply exacerbating them.

It is the responsibility of the Ontario Human Rights Commission via the legislation it administers, to address such conditions, when they are found to be the result of discrimination and prejudice.

When the Ontario Human Rights Code was first enacted in 1962, people generally felt that discrimination took place because of conscious and overt acts against individuals. At that time, it was believed that the Commission could fulfil its mandate by resolving individual complaints and educating people in the principles of equality of opportunity. In recent years, however the most pervasive discrimination against particular groups has tended to originate from unconscious and seemingly inoffensive, if not neutral practices. Even when they are not inflicted in bad faith, these practices are as detrimental to equality of opportunity as were the overt and deliberate forms of discrimination of 15 years ago.

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These practices tend to perpetuate the discriminatory effects of past inequality, and they work a cumulative disadvantage on the individual even though overt acts of discrimination may decline. Discrimination need not be conscious or deliberate to have adverse effects on minority groups.

The Code has provided effective remedy for those protected groups who have complained of discrimination in housing, and access to services and facilities. Our northern officers are cognizant, however, that the complaints we receive are only a small percentage of the discrimination that actually occurs. We know that many Native peoples have grown wary of government and are distrustful of the law.

Our largest single complaint category in Northern Ontario is the denial of public services and facilities to Native people. The largest part of the Commission's complaint handling in the north this year is to obtain for Native people the simple right to a room in a hotel, a meal in a restaurant or a beer in a bar. These are rights that are now taken for granted among minorities in Southern Ontario.

Nonetheless, with the continuing support we receive from the Treaty orgnizations, Band Councils, OMNSIA, the Friendship Centres, etc. we are making inroads in these types of discrimination.

In employment, however, discrimination continues to exclude Natives categorically from a wide range of jobs. The discrimination is inherent within the system and is directed against racial and ethnic groups; it frequently has little to do with individual shortcomings or isolated acts of exclusion.

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A Native person may apply for work and loses the competition because of lack of educational qualifications or relevant experience. Here, the discrimination is frequently due to a non-job-related educational requirement, more important, however, is the fact that the Native applicant has been denied equality of access to the educational and training opportunities enjoyed by his white counterparts.

Where occupational experience is concerned, many employers fail to recognize that most Native people are, for the first time, trying to enter the labour force and may have never held full-time and permanent employment in an industrial or commercial setting.

There has been a long-standing observable pattern of unequal access to educational, social and employment opportunities that has worked against minorities and women, but, which in turn, have favoured their white male counterparts. Native people are aware of this disparity and in order to avoid rejection, they are reluctant to approach firms with few or no Native employees.But many northern employers tell us that they have never had occasion to hire a member of any minority group,because none has ever applied. We have also been told, when it has been pointed out that the firm is located near an untapped pool of potential labour, that they had never dawned upon them that they could assist in remedying the situation. They thought Indians just didn't want to work. Why else would they all be on welfare? Accordingly, many Native workers find themselves restricted to a very narrow spectrum of the labour market.

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Faced with these types of situations, the Native applicant cannot seek protection from the formal provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code. These Sections of the Code cannot address structural discrimination and inequality of opportunity, because it assumes that individuals are competitive in the labour force and enjoy equal access to employment, education and housing.

The situation will not be remedied overnight. Nonetheless, the Commission believes that long range development strategies must take into account the social, economic and cultural implications for those persons who are directly affected by them. Comprehensive planning is not manifestly seen to be undertaken by employers or governments, and this baffles most northerners, Native and non-Native alike.

Time and again, people in northern communities are going to tell you of their anger and frustration at the overlapping complexity of roles, functions, mandates, jurisdictions and responsibilities of the public and private agencies they encounter. At times, they even believe that no one is accountable or responsible for the addressing of a particular need. At other times, three, four or more agencies appear to be competing in providing the same service.

The difficulty has partly arisen through lack of information on the availability and purpose of various programmes and services, partly because of poor communication and co-ordination among agencies providing for similar or complementary needs, partly because an agency is implementing policy that may make sense in a metropolis but just does not fit the particular needs and circumstances of the north. To a large measure, as the government has recognized by the appointment of your Commission, the difficulties arise because of the absence of any coherent and comprehensive policy with sensitivity to local or regional needs.

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If we can make but one suggestion for your framing of this policy, it is this:

Any development of the area north of the 50th parallel must work towards removing discriminatory barriers against the people who live in this area. It must ensure that all the residents of this part of the Province are afforded an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits which would accrue from such development.

In advancing this principle, we wish to make it clear that we do not seek an advantageous position for any particular group. We seek equality of opportunity for the members of any group regardless of race, colour, creed, age, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry or place of origin.

Nonetheless, we are cognizant that a full two-thirds of the population of this area are Native people and remedial measures are necessary if they are to achieve an equal footing and overcome past disadvantages.

In future planning, more thought and effort must be devoted to the social impacts of economic and resource development. It is naive to assume that the social problems Native people encounter exist separate and apart from economic factors. Meaningful employment opportunities for northern residents would greatly contribute to the alleviation of many of the social problems they experience.

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Native leadership itself will tell you that their people require a viable economic base in order to sustain their culture. They will also tell you, emphatically, that they are not prepared to opt for economic security at the cost of losing their culture. In their own parlance, if it means becoming an "apple" - red on the outside and white on the inside - in order to succeed in their own homeland, they want no part of it. They suggest, and logically so, that new economic or resource development must be compatible with their values and lifestyles. If that be the accepted premise, they are prepared to negotiate as equals towards the mutual improvement and betterment of their people through economic means.

In this process of negotiation, the Ontario Human Rights Commission may have a fruitful role as provided by the Code. Section 6 (a) of this Act recognizes the need for special employment programmes to remedy the adverse effects of past discrimination in education, training and career development.

Section 6 (a) states:

> "notwithstanding the provisions of this Part, the Commission may, upon such conditions or limitations and subject to revocation or suspension, approve in writing any special plan or program by the Crown, any agency thereof, any person to increase the employment of members of a group or class of persons because of race, creed, colour, age, sex, marital status, nationality or place of origin of the group or class of person."

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This Section of the code recognized the need for corrective employment practices to improve the competitive position of people currently under-represented or under-ulilized in the labour force. We cannot think of any area where this provision could be used to better advantage than in Northern Ontario where statistics tell us that Native people work an average of only 5.5 months of the year; they are ghettoized within a narrow spectrum of the labour force; they are subject to higher unemployment rates than non-natives; and their participation rate in the labour force is far below that of non-Natives.

Under Section 6 (a), merit is still defined according to job requirements and employers' needs, but demonstration of competence and experience according to usual assessment criteria is recognized as not possible for many minority candidates who have never been afforded competitive opportunity.

The Section recognizes that it is pointless to proclaim that the rules of the 'footrace' must be equal for all, when some groups are already a 100 yards behind. It provides an opportunity for those groups to catch up, maintain an equal footing and achieve true equality of opportunity in employment. It is a social policy which, if improvised under carefully controlled situations, can change the perception of members of a group that they will be denied employment, training and promotional opportunities in the present, because they have been denied them in the past.

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The implementation of such special employment programmes to assist Native people may require such practical measures as planning for special transportation to combat adverse weather conditions and long distances from home to the job, actively recruiting Native people through their own media and with the help of their own organizations, special training courses sponsored by private industry and government to meet the need for specialized skills, the introduction of flexible or special working hours, long term career planning, and job sharing.

Also worthy of consideration is the idea of contract compliance. Should development occur, spinoff projects may arise such as road construction, railways, utilities, housing, and the like. Contracts for such projects might include a compliance clause making discrimination illegal. Enforcement would ensure that local residents would have equal opportunity for employment on such projects.

In summary, the Commission believes that errors made in northern development strategies in the past have contributed to the growth of numerous social and economic problems for Northern Native communities. Accordingly, every effort should be made to avoid similar problems in the future. The Commission is not in a position to advise the Royal Commission as to whether or where, development ought to occur. However, future development could well undermine the material and social life of Native communities unless adequate and sensitive mechanisms are created to enable their participation in its economic benefits.

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Such mechanisms will require social development, and not .ply resource and economic development. In the area of :onomic development, special employment programmes and contract compliance strategies should be employed to ensure equality of opportunity. Finally, all development which will affect Native peoples should not occur without their full consultation and support.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission thanks the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment for this opportunity to submit its observations and recommendations in this area.

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-77N22

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY NUMBER 3

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00308
File Number

249
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY NUMBER 3

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY NUMBER 3

KENORA, ONTARIO



Grand Council

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MARMION LAKE

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

FROM

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY NUMBER 3

KENORA, ONTARIO

No. 249

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Grand Council Treaty
this 17 day of Jan 19 78

MR. COMMISSIONER, IN DRYDEN WE INFORMED YOU OF THE COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATION ONTARIO HYDRO INTENDS TO BUILD AT MARMION LAKE NEAR ATIKOKAN. WE EXPLAINED THAT NO SCRUBBING UNITS WOULD BE BUILT INTO THE GENERATING STATION'S STACK AND THAT SULPHUR DIOXIDE WOULD THEREFORE FREELY POUR FROM THE OPERATION INTO THE NORTHERN ONTARIO ATMOSPHERE. DR. J.R. KRAMER OF MCMASTER UNIVERSITY TESTIFIED IN DRYDEN THAT SULPHUR DIOXIDE FROM THE HYDRO POWER PLANT WOULD PRODUCE ACID RAIN WHICH WOULD SLOWLY, BUT SURELY, STRANGLE THE LIFE FROM OUR LAKES AND RIVERS.

THE PROJECT WILL CLEARLY HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT AND IT WILL HAVE A DRASTIC EFFECT ON MY PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND WELFARE. MY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN THAT THE INDIAN LIFESTYLE, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS ARE INTIMATELY BOUND TO THE ENVIRONMENT. TO TAMPER WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IS TO TAMPER WITH THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL SURVIVAL OF MY PEOPLE.

A PROJECT SUCH AS THE COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATION AT MARMION LAKE HAS NEVER BEEN BUILT IN OUR AREA BEFORE. NO ONE, LEAST OF ALL HYDRO, KNOWS THE FULL EXTENT OF THE HAVOC IT WILL WREAK ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. BUT WE DO KNOW ABOUT ACID RAIN. IT DESTROYS TREES, SHRUBS AND MOSSES, AND GRADUALLY KILLS THE FISH IN LAKES AND RIVERS. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT MY PEOPLE WANT THE MARMION LAKE PROJECT TO UNDERGO PUBLIC SCRUTINY. THE REQUEST IS A REASONABLE ONE.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT OF ONTARIO STATES THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BOARD SHALL EVALUATE PROJECTS SUCH AS MARMION LAKE. NEVERTHELESS THE ONTARIO CABINET SAW FIT TO EXEMPT THE MARMION LAKE PLANT FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THAT ACT. IN DRYDEN WE CHALLENGED YOU TO PROVE THAT YOUR COMMISSION INTO THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT WASN'T MERELY A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE. WE ASKED YOU TO EXERT YOUR INFLUENCE ON THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND PERSUADE THEM TO ABIDE BY THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT. WE SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE A TEST FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF YOUR COMMISSION. SO FAR, MR. COMMISSIONER, YOU HAVE NOT PASSED THAT TEST. THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IS GOING AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC EVALUATION OF THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO INSTALL SCRUBBERS AND REMOVE THE SULPHUR DIOXIDE FROM THE EMISSIONS OF THE MARMION LAKE POWER PLANT. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE PROJECT UNTIL EXPERTS CAN ASSESS ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAY ASK THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER. WE HAVE LEARNED MUCH FROM THE CHAIN OF EVENTS, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS MORE OF AN IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO THAN THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT.

LET US NOW CONSIDER THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY ONTARIO HYDRO. ONTARIO HYDRO HAS STATED THAT IT WILL COST TOO MUCH TO INSTALL THE SCRUBBERS AT MARMION LAKE, BUT WE NOW HAVE A FORMULA AVAILABLE TO ASSESS HOW MUCH IT WILL COST NOT TO INSTALL SCRUBBERS. A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STUDY WAS

RECENTLY RELEASED OF THE COSTS THE PUBLIC MUST BEAR FOR THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE SUDBURY NICKEL OPERATIONS TO DUMP FOUR AND A HALF thousand TONS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE A DAY INTO THE SUDBURY AIR. THE COST TO THE PUBLIC IN TERMS OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, WAS ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

LET US NOW APPLY THE SAME FORMULA TO THE MARMION LAKE PROJECT. THE SULPHUR CONTENT OF WESTERN SUB-BITUMINOUS COAL IS 0.53 PERCENT. THE POTENTIAL SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM THIS COAL WOULD BE ABOUT 1 PER CENT, BY WEIGHT, OF THE COAL BURNT. AT MARMION LAKE, HYDRO EXPECTS TO BURN AN AVERAGE OF 2.5 MILLION TONS OF COAL A YEAR, OR 68,500 TONS OF COAL A DAY. THIS MEANS THAT ONTARIO HYDRO WILL BE PUMPING ABOUT 685 TONS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE INTO THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AND MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENT EACH AND EVERY DAY. IF WE NOW APPLY THE FORMULA USED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE DAMAGES IN THE SUDBURY AREA TO MARMION LAKE, WE FIND THAT THE COST TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE OVER 60 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR. CONSIDER THE FACT THAT IT WILL COST ONTARIO HYDRO 70 MILLION DOLLARS TO INSTALL THE SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO SCRUB THEIR FUMES CLEAN. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT ONTARIO HYDRO WOULD HAVE THE COST OF THEIR SCRUBBERS PAID OFF IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS IF THEY ARE ONLY WILLING TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH COSTS THE PEOPLE OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WILL BE FORCED TO PAY.

ONE OTHER POINT, IN SCANDINAVIA, FISH BIOLOGISTS WERE PUZZLED BY UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH MERCURY LEVELS IN FISH IN A LAKE WHERE NO MERCURY HAD BEEN

DUMPED. THE NATURAL MERCURY IN THE ENVIRONMENT WAS NO GREATER IN THIS LAKE THAN IN THE LAKES OF SCANDINAVIA WITHOUT A MERCURY PROBLEM. THE SCANDINAVIAN SCIENTIST CONCLUDED THAT ACID RAIN HAD FALLEN ON THE HIGH MERCURY LAKE. THE ACID RAIN HAD CAUSED AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF MERCURY TO ESCAPE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND BE ABSORBED BY THE FISH.

AS YOU KNOW, MR. COMMISSIONER, WE HAVE FAR TOO MUCH MERCURY IN OUR RIVER SYSTEMS ALREADY. WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE.

ONTARIO HYDRO HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THE EMISSIONS FROM ITS COAL-FIRED GENERATING STATION AT ATIKOKAN WILL MEET THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THE PROJECT WILL NOT, OF COURSE, MEET THE UNITED STATES AND MINNESOTA SULPHUR DIOXIDE STANDARDS. OUR CONCERN IS THAT THE ONTARIO STANDARDS ARE INADEQUATE.

ONTARIO BASES ITS STANDARDS ON THE ABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO ABSORB SULPHUR DIOXIDE WITHOUT CAUSING ANY DAMAGE. BUT THERE IS NO LIVING ENVIRONMENT THAT IS UNALTERED BY WASTE DISPOSAL. IN FACT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED ONTARIO'S POLICY OF GAMBLING THAT THE ENVIRONMENT CAN ABSORB POLLUTANTS. INSTEAD, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT THE MINIMAL ACCEPTABLE STANDARD MUST BE ONE WHICH EMPLOYS THE "BEST PRACTICABLE TECHNOLOGY". IN THE CASE OF MARMION LAKE, THIS WOULD MEAN INSTALLING SCRUBBERS, SOMETHING THAT ONTARIO HYDRO REFUSES TO DO.

MR. COMMISSIONER, THE INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CARRY THE PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF PROJECTS SUCH AS MARMION LAKE FAR TOO LONG. GOVERNMENTS HAVE REPEATEDLY PLAYED ENVIRONMENTAL ROULETTE WITH OUR LIFESTYLES. IT IS PRIME TIME THAT SOMEONE STOPPED THIS INSANE GAME. WE FEEL THAT SOMEONE IS YOU. THE CHALLENGE YOU FACE IS TO GET THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO ADHERE TO THE ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT AND HOLD AN INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF THEIR MARMION LAKE PROJECT. IT IS AN IDEAL WAY TO PROVE TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN ONTARIO THAT THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT IS A COMMISSION WITH CLOUT.

CORRECTIONS WITHIN MARMION LAKE SUBMISSION

Mr. Commissioner, I would like to file for the record a correction to the Marmion Lake brief we presented to you on Tuesday. On page 3 of the brief we mentioned that INCO spews out 4 1/2 tons of sulphur dioxide a day into the environment. That should in reality read 4 1/2 thousand tons of sulphur dioxide a day. Due to a typing error the word "thousand" was left out.

Our figures regarding the cost to the Sudbury area still stand. It costs that area up to 450 million dollars according to a federal government study. Our figures regarding the cost to the Marmion Lake area should the sulphur dioxide emissions from Hydro's power plant not be removed, also stand. By using the same formula that was used in the federal study, we found that it will cost the Atikokan area 60 million dollars a year. As was pointed out on Tuesday, it costs 70 million dollars to install scrubbers to remove the sulphur dioxide from the Marmion Lake project. Our claim has been that at that rate, Hydro would have its scrubbers paid for in less than two years.

I would also like to correct one other point. It has been reported that Treaty #3 is trying to stop the project. That is incorrect. We are merely trying to introduce some sanity to the Marmion Lake project. We are merely trying to force Hydro to incorporate proper pollution control devices in their power generating station. Our future and the future of our children depend on a healthy environment and we will continue our fight for sane controls on developmental projects.

Grand Council Treaty #3

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-77N27

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF FORESTRY

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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THE HON. MR. JUSTICE E. P. HARTT COMMISSIONER

00309
File Number

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Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

Canadian Institute of Forestry
Lake of the Woods Section
716 - 6th Street South
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1N8

PRESENTED AT

Kenora

on

January 17, 1978

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Canadian Institute of Forestry/Institut Forestier du Canada

Lake of the Woods Section
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No. 250

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Canadian Institute of Forestry
this 17 day of Jan 1978.

A BRIEF TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

January 17, 1978

Head Office: 514 - 457-9131 / Box 5000, Macdonald College, Que. H0A 1C0

The Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry has a geographic range that lies between the international border in the south and on the shores of Hudson Bay in the north, between a line on the east that starts approximately halfway between Atikokan, and Fort Frances projected through Ignace and Pickle Lake on the east and bounded by the Manitoba border on the west.

The Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry is proud to claim as its members, 47 of the 60 some odd resident foresters of this area on voluntary basis.

The Section meets quarterly, when National and Provincial issues concerning forestry are discussed and appropriate action taken, if warranted in the form of a brief or recommendation to the level of government concerned as happens to be the case right now.

FORESTRY SCHOOLS

Mr. Chairman, Justice Hartt and members of the Commission, the practice of forestry in Canada had its start with the establishment of the first school of forestry at the University of Toronto in 1905. Today 2 out of the 6 forestry schools in Canada are located in Ontario as a testimonial to the forest management requirements of this Province.

FOREST LEGISLATION

Ontario was also the first Province in Canada to enact legislation concerning its forests. The first statutes were primarily concerned with the establishment of regulations that would govern the exploitation of this forest wealth. Laws to protect the forest from the ravages of fire were next enacted to ensure the maximum utilization of the forests. Legislation concerning the management of the forests of Ontario were not enacted until the need to manage this resource was pointed out by the Kennedy Royal Commission of 1947, the Brodie Forest Study Unit of 1967 and more recently the Armson Report of 1976 has called for more intensive forest management in Ontario on a sustained yield basis.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Management is not a simple operation. Some of the factors that the forest manager must take into consideration are: (1) the objectives of the owner in this case, the people of Ontario, (2) the silvicultural characteristics of the species to be managed, (3) the biological limitations of the species, (4) the productive capacity of the site and its protection from deterioration,

(5) the climate as it is affected by latitude, (6) the rotation of the cutting schedule that will determine the products that will be produced, i.e., pulpwood, sawlogs, veneer, food or fuel for example, (7) the biological effects of the cutting pattern on the flora and fauna which inhabit the forest, (8) the recreational and aesthetic requirements of the people, (9) the limitations that are placed upon the forest manager by various user groups through their representatives in the Provincial Legislature, (10) the funds that are made available to forest managers by the Provincial Government to enable him to meet all the demands that are placed upon the forest entrusted in his care.

FOREST USERS

The ancestors of our first Canadians lived in close harmony with their environment as hunters and gatherers of food, right through the fur trading era of our history.

It was not the arrival of the white man as much as his ability to manufacture paper from the fiber of wood and the subsequent establishment of 11 pulp and paper mills in the last 50 years that is responsible for the changes that are taking place in the Boreal Forest of Ontario. It was the establishment of these mills that provided us with a life style that now appears to be in conflict with the ability of the Boreal Forest to provide them.

Up until quite recently, forest users could "stake out" a trapline, a cottage site, a tourist camp, a wilderness area or a timber licence from the public domain without coming into conflict with other forest users. But now, due to the ever

increasing demands that our society places upon the products of the Boreal Forest, these single users find themselves competing for the same piece of the public domain to the exclusion of all others.

MULTIPLE USE

Sir, the Forests in the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry firmly believe that the Boreal Forest of Ontario is capable of meeting most of the demands that are placed upon it by our society through the concept of "multiple use planning", when the forest of Ontario are managed on a sustained yield basis, adequately funded by our Legislators.

THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY

The Boreal Forest is a dynamic and constantly changing environment where plant associations and plant communities compete with and replace one another in a never ending cycle. The animal life of the Boreal Forest changes as constantly as the plants upon which they depend for their existence. The management of this forest in a constantly changing environment requires the professional training and dedication that only a forester can give. But inasmuch as the majority of foresters practice their profession on public lands, it is the people of Ontario through their Government that dictate the type and intensity of management that is being practiced in Ontario.

SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION

We, the Foresters in the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry support your Commission as responsible citizens of Ontario and will gladly provide you with assistance if called upon to do so.

I would also like to extend to you, if I may and to the members of your Commission an invitation from our employers, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the members of the local Woods industry, to visit their operations in order that you may observe at first hand the problems that foresters encounter in prescribing and implementing the techniques of forest management for multiple use under the constraints that are placed upon us by the Legislators of this Province.

On behalf of the Lake of the Woods Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry I thank you for allowing me to speak to you, the members of your Commission and to this assembly.

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-77N22

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE

CONSERVATIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00310
File Number

251
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE

CONSERVATIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

on

January 17, 1978

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ON THE NORTHERN
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO PROGRESSIVE

CONSERVATIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Submission to the Hartt Commission
by Fergus Devins, President of the Northwestern Ontario District Progressive Conservative Youth Association.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you sir some views on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario District Progressive Conservative Youth Association. I wouldn't be candid if I didn't preface my remarks with the observation that we as young Conservatives firmly believe that the development of this part of The Province in both industry and tourism is an essential step in protecting our lives and our identities as Northerners.

If I might be permitted to digress on a personal note for a moment, I and my friends and peers were born here sir, we have been educated here, we have played here, we have learned to love and dream here. In the words of Kipling, I believe it was, "This is my own, my native land".

I want to remain here, I want to grow and develop here, and there is probably nothing else at this time that means as much to me as fighting for the opportunity to do so.

Many of my friends have gone to other parts of Canada; to Toronto, Montreal, London, Vancouver and most often to Winnipeg for their education. They grow there and they learn there and all too often they remain there. In my opinion and in the opinion of young Conservatives, they are throwing away the heritage that they were born into. They miss the satisfaction of carving out a life and a lifestye in a challenging frontier-like environment basically free of the social and environmental problems of the major

centres to the south, to the east and to the west (and I don't ignore for a moment, sir, the highly publicized and over exaggerated mercury pollution issue).

The new generation of Northerners, born in the North and determined to stay in the North, wants to have the opportunity to take on the challenges of the 1980's here in the North and particularly here in the Northwest. The rest of the Province must give us the opportunity to further develop our own resources. We must be given the opportunity to share in the determination of priorities that creates wealth in this Province and we must be given the opportunity to share benefits of that wealth creation process. I know, sir, that this message has gotten through to you loudly and clearly and I respectfully submit that one of your most important tasks must be to spread that message throughout the Province.

Your generation, sir, my parents and my friends' parents started the process that has given rise to so many of our expectations. Your generation has made many mistakes and so in all likelihood will mine, but you must give us the freedom and the opportunity to do so. Don't sterilize us. Don't destroy our hopes before they get off the ground.

A simple example of the type of thing that crushes our expectations in the North is the Minaki Lodge fiasco. The completion of Minaki Lodge is so important to the future of, not only the community of Minaki, but also to the entire region that it is really difficult to accept the delays that have taken place. We understand the politics of Southern Ontario and we can accept the fact that fiscal restraint has

sir, question priorities that continually place on the back burner a project of such obvious benefit to so many people. The Kenora District needs a tourist magnet, an attraction such as Banff, Ontario Place, the Science Centre, the National Art Centre, the Olympic Village and grounds, etc. etc. etc. In our case, Minaki would not only attract tourists with the obvious spinoff effects, it would also supply the jobs that may well mean the survival of the Community. I use Minaki as one example, but we are tired, sir, of the glory seekers in Eastern Ontario who constantly want to score political points on the backs of residents of Northwestern Ontario. We need positive development in this area if we are to survive, let alone to have the opportunities that I referred to earlier.

This development that I refer to is one that by its very nature can be shared with our native brothers. I don't want to dwell on the problems of those natives who have chosen to leave the land, and to live in or around settled communities in the North. Those problems must be all too obvious to you. I know sociologists and psychologists who will hypothesize about what must be done, but the truth is that there is no magic solution. You know, and I know, that much of the problem lies in the hearts of men and women, both native and white, and I know of no quick and easy way to affect the changes there.

In my view part of the solution lies in sharing the benefits of the development and ensuring a vision of the opportunities that we have in the North, but I wouldn't be honest with you, sir, if I did not express disappointment over the use that the natives,who have chosen to remain on the land,have made of their woodland areas. In my view, they have much to prove. There must be much greater stress on developing the land resources on and around their Reserves.

Sir, let's be honest, if any white group had control of large areas of land such as those on the native reservations, they would put them to much greater use. Land is a precious commodity today, and I am sure that with proper discussions, improved input in the form of expertise and greater encouragement, the young native people could and in fact would take the bull by the horns and start using development to their own advantage. I am confident, sir, that eventually native groups will seek the benefit of fully reaping the bountiful harvest of their lands. I know that they don't want handouts, something that the Federal Government uses as a cure-all for its own lack of imagination. I really don't believe that the natives like welfare and giveaway programs with no accountability. I think it's time we stressed work for welfare and help the natives put pride back into their efforts. A happy and content person is a person who is working regardless of race, creed or colour. Unemployment and welfare handouts, when they become habitual destroy character and breed social consequences that are all too obvious to see. In the North the opportunities are unlimited for all of us, if we take the time to grasp them,

and make the effort to share them. We who live in the North, sir, understand that the mercury pollution issue is a red herring. Does it not seem strange to you, for example, that the problem halts at the Ontario-Manitoba border? The same water and the same fish end up in our sister province to the west, but our destructive negativism doesn't, and they, sir, are all the better off for it. We, who live in the North, know that alcohol abuse and venereal disease are symptoms that simply serve to confuse the real issue. The problem is the failure to take hold of opportunities and this failure today is based on an unwillingness to grow and develop. At this moment of the twentieth century and in this part of Canada, we are not talking about development for developments sake. What we are talking about is development for man's sake. Without it, the future of this area for both natives and whites is gloomy indeed.

Jobs must be high on the priority list for Northern Ontario. We need to keep people in the North. As an example, I would suggest that we need more government offices in this area. The Ministry of Natural Resources has a regional office in Kenora. The Ministry of Northern Affairs, in large part because of presentations made by the Kenora Chamber of Commerce, decided to locate its regional office in Kenora. Other Ministries could follow these examples. It is starting to happen, but the whole decentralization program must be accelerated by both the Federal and Provincial governments.

Sir, your mandate of examination extends to that area north of the 50th parallel. We, as the coming generation, believe as did your generation who moved up to the 50th parallel that the future of our Province lies in this great untouched area.

It harbours untapped and yet to be discovered sources of wealth. It has some of the Province's greatest beauty, and because of its incredible promise, it attracts my generation like a magnet.

In dealing with this area and in tapping the resources that are there, we want to gain from earlier mistakes. Quite frankly, we are sick and tired of hearing about, and we don't want a repetition of the mercury issue, the arsenic issue, the PCB issue, the rate on gas issue, the fluctuating water issue and on and on. With the experience of the past and the desires of the present we can plan, direct and develop a great and healthy future for the area.

It's great to talk about government planning and government control. Do this for us, do that for us. Please do not forget that we want to do things for ourselves. We are individuals in this part of the Province. Leave us room to go our own way as individuals, to use our own imagination, initiative and desire. Let us fulfil the promise of the opportunity that our lands hold. Trust us to do what we can do and to do it well. We have no intention of letting your generation or our generation down.

I thank you, sir, and I wish you every success in your future deliberations. A great deal seems to rest in your hands.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

FEDERATED COMMITTEE OF PAPER MILL

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PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

Ontario

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00177
File Number

252
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

Kenora Paper Mill Unions Federated
Committee
Box 15 - 10th Street South
Kenora, Ontario P9N 1Z9

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
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416/965-9286

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ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4W 1A5

No. 252

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Kenora Paper Mill Unions
Federated Committee
this 17 day of Jan 19 75

BRIEF
TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

FROM

KENORA PAPER MILL UNIONS
FEDERATED COMMITTEE

I N D E X

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PREFACE

Employees of the Kenora Paper Mill have chosen the Paper Industry as their main source of livelihood. Many of their forefathers began working for the Backus-Brooks Paper Company in the Kenora area in the early 1900's. It is their dream and hope that their sons and daughters and the future generations of their families will continue to choose Kenora and its associated Paper Industry as their place of residence and source of employment.

The Kenora area has provided these families many recreational and leisure time facilities which is part and parcel of their own decision to settle down in this Northwestern Region. The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited and its predecessor companies have played a vital part in opening up the area to the vast hunting, fishing and recreational facilities that now exist.

The employees and their families justly feel that they have an inherent right to be directly involved in any decisions that will affect their present or future livelihood and environment.

As true representatives of the ordinary workers of the Kenora Paper Mill we welcome the Ontario Government's establishment of this Commission to ensure that our environment is managed and controlled in order to maintain our quality of life.

INTRODUCTION

In 1977 the Kenora Paper Mill employed approximately nine hundred and thirty (930) workers of which sixty-five (65) were non-unionized. The Kenora Paper Mill Unions Federated Committee represents the eight hundred and sixty-five (865) unionized employees. The committee consists of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the six (6) representative Union Locals.

Each and every Local represented by the committee supports the submission of this brief. They are unanimous in their stand against any suggestion or action that would jeopardize their present social, economical and cultural way of life.

The Kenora Paper Mill of the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited provides the major industry in Kenora, Ontario. It is imperative that we be assured of its continued operation so that our families can look with hope to the future.

The memberships we represent strongly supports the wise utilization and intensive management of our Province's natural resources. The multiple use concept is widely supported by our membership as it provides the best method of satisfying the requirements and needs of the majority of the people in the Northwestern Region of Ontario. It provides the means to best satisfy the majority of the citizens of the Province of Ontario.

LOGGING

In order for the Kenora Paper Mill to continue its existance, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited must have a continuous source of timber supply at a reasonable cost. The bulk of this timber supply is obtained from the Province of Ontario on Crown Management Units and Company Licenses. The brief from the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited to your Commission contains the detailed breakdown and maps indicating the sources of this supply. As can be seen from the map, a very significant portion of this wood source exists north of the 50th Parallel.

The availability of this timber on a continuous basis is vital to the continued viable operation of our Kenora Paper Mill. The jobs and livelihood of thousands of people in the Kenora region depend on the continuous operation of the Kenora Paper Mill. The Province of Ontario receives millions of dollars in revenues through dues, taxes, etc. that are generated by the Pulp and Paper Industry in Northwestern Ontario. Any action by the Government of Ontario that would curtail or jeopardize the availability of these timber resources in the name of environmental protection could very seriously affect the social and economic life of our members, their families, and future generations to come.

In the Northwestern Region, despite some singular specific conflicts over the best land use, the logging industry and the tourist industry have generally lived in harmony together. In fact, many of the tourist establishments have resulted from the paper industry's development of access roads and highways over the past seventy (70) years. It is essential that this relationship continue in harmony and there is no reason it cannot do so if the resources are managed in a co-ordinated manner in a multiple use concept.

This co-operative and co-ordinated use of the forest land must be continued and improved for the social economic and future well-being of the citizens of the Kenora Region. We like it here and we feel that the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited has been a good corporate citizen and a good employer.

All that is required is good, honest, forest management and control so that the timber crop is renewed on a continuous basis. This management control must be intensified so that the environmental quality is maintained and to ensure that the next crop is as equal to or better than this one. With technological information and experience that has been developed over the past seventy (70) years it is known that managed regulated logging can provide better volumes per acre than natural growth.

ENVIRONMENT

The vast majority of the people who live in the Kenora area are living here because they like the forests and lakes and the fishing and hunting opportunities that they provide. It is our hope and dream that our children continue to have these benefits as well.

It is a known fact that the Paper Industry through its Logging operations has opened up vast areas to hunting, fishing, and general recreational uses. We have seen areas that were cut over fifty (50) years ago and have noted the full regeneration that has occurred. Logging operations, tourist facilities, and recreational facilities can be seen throughout the area with the environment well maintained. The area is living proof that a multiple use concept is possible and essential in this Northwestern Region. Intensive good management of the natural resources in a multiple use concept is essential for our continued growth.

JOBS

The vast majority of the jobs in Northern and Northwestern Ontario communities are directly linked to natural resources, whether it be mining, logging or tourism.

Kenora is no exception to this and in fact it is considered as a one industry town that depends very heavily on the pulp and paper industry. Loss of this industry to the town of Kenora could very well destroy it economically.

The Kenora Paper Mill and it's Woodlands Operations employ native people on the same terms and conditions as any other employee. Our membership consists of several native people. The logging operation provide the native people with many job opportunities. Our members want to continue this relationship and to live in Northwestern Ontario. We have been building a future here for our children and their children. Our jobs are essential to the continued survival of Kenora and its surrounding communities. The Province of Ontario depends on our taxes, and the revenue derived from the Pulp and Paper Industry for Ontario's continued growth.

The forests North of the 50th Parallel are vital to the Pulp and Paper Industry and are necessary for the continued survival of the Kenora Paper Mill. We don't have to be forestry experts, geologists, engineers, lawyers or professors to understand that the Pulp and Paper Industry must have a continuous source of usable timber at as low a cost as possible to survive economically. They must be assured of this for many years ahead if we the employees want to be reasonably assured of future employment.

Our jobs and livelihood, now and in the future, depend on the proper harvesting of these forests. It can be done for the mutual benefit of all concerned, by good intensive management of the natural resources in a multiple use concept. The environment can and will be maintained.

FISHING & HUNTING

One of the benefits enjoyed by our members and thousands of other citizens of Ontario, the rest of Canada and the United States, is hunting and fishing.

The accessibility to the hunting and fishing areas have been primarily brought about by the logging industry. They have opened up the areas so that the ordinary citizen can have easy access to the game and fish. A wilderness or restricted non-accessible area does not allow the ordinary individual with limited income, to have access to the fish and game. These restricted areas are available only to the rich and more fortunate.

Because of the logging operations our game animals, such as moose, have improved feeding and shelter conditions. The logging industry has created openings in the forest that have afforded them easier access to food and provided better shelter facilities. As a direct result of logging, game has increased in our area. Also this has been possible through the multiple use concept. Again we emphasize that good management control would provide a better fish and game crop than an uncontrolled wilderness area.

WILDERNESS

Establishment of vast wilderness areas of land for wilderness parks in Northwestern Ontario would benefit only a small handful of people and would seriously affect the social and economical life of our people in Northwestern Ontario.

Wilderness parks, as defined by the Ministry of Natural Resources, are blocks of Land and Water that are set aside to allow the natural processes to continue on a large scale relatively unaffected by human action. Travel within these areas is allowed only by means of non-mechanized vehicles. In several instances flying is forbidden within five thousand (5,000) feet of the area to mistakenly "protect" the wildlife.

Many of the wilderness parks proposed are vast in size and because of the restrictions and availability will be utilized by very few people. In a poll of our members as well as many other Kenora residents we have found almost unanimous, opposition to vast wilderness parks such as proposed for the Atikaki area.

The Atikaki proposal is a prime example of a proposed preservation of vast areas of land without regard to the people directly affected. The benefits this proposal claim are very minimal as compared to the effect it would have on this region's economic and social life. The Atikaki proposal strikes at the very heart of our people's livelihood. It appears to suggest that a wilderness park which may create employment for a few months of the year should replace a high paying labour intensive, year round industry. This is absurd! How can a group of people whose base is primarily outside the boundaries of Ontario and whose proposal is mainly endorsed by the Province of Manitoba groups, have the gall to disregard so blatantly the people of Northwestern Ontario! It is easy to see why they did not consult or attempt to extract support from the Northwestern Ontario citizens. They knew that their proposal, if accepted, would eventually strangle our growth and destroy our economy.

CONCLUSION

Your Commission will no doubt receive briefs and arguments by several groups and interests. Some groups will yield considerable political and other pressures. Other groups will use the commission as a means to gain national attention for their cause, at the expense of the people of Northwestern Ontario. Many will propose and suggest recommendations that will "feather their nest" or further their groups self interests.

We respectively submit that our brief is not one of these types. We are appealing on behalf of the ordinary workers and citizens, whose only interest is to be able to continue to live in Northwestern Ontario as we have, and as we hope to in the future. To do this we need assurance that our present and future economic bases in the logging, mining and tourist industries will not be locked up into any wilderness plan.

The logging industry, the mining industry and the tourist industry has for many decades lived and grown side-by-side in Northern and Northwestern Ontario. Even with the stepped up pace of population and economic growth, we have continued to live in an atmosphere of harmony, good will and hope. We are not against tourism, mining, native rights or free enterprise. What we are against, is any individual or group who advocates a proposal that will serve their own interests at the expense of others. We strongly suggest that a multiple use concept has worked well in Northern and Northwestern Ontario for decades.

Good, honest management of our natural resources North of the 50th Parallel, under the multiple use concept, would best serve the vast majority of the people of Ontario.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

KENORA PAPER MILL UNION'S FEDERATED COMMITTEE

Lyle Hudson, President	Local 1330, United Paper Workers International Union
Barry Adamson, President	Lodge 490, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Walter Marshaluk, Business Manager	Local 559, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Roger Leroux, President	Local 488, Office and Professional Employees International Union
Lorne Shouldice, President	Local 940, International Union of Operating Engineers
Carl Stephens, President	Local 238, Canadian Paper Workers Union

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

NANCY MORRISON

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00311
File Number

253
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

Nancy Morrison

PRESENTED AT

Kenora, Ontario

on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
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416/965-9286

MANULIFE CENTRE
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ROOM 801
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4W 1A5

S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

Nancy Morrison

Kenora, Ontario

MR. JUSTICE HARTT. THIS BRIEF WILL BE BRIEF. NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY, BUT BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT OTHERS, WITH THEIR HIRED STAFF WILL BE REPORTING TO YOU IN MORE POLITE FORM ABOUT SOME OF THESE SAME THINGS. AND, ALSO, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOW OUR CONCERN IN OTHER WAYS.

WE ARE A GROUP OF CONCERNED PEOPLE, MAINLY WOMEN, MAINLY NATIVE AND MAINLY MOTHERS, WHO, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HAVE LIVED AND WORKED ON THE STREETS OF KENORA.

AND WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD MANY THINGS THAT CONCERN US. YOU COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES AND STILL NOT HAVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING. I DO HAVE HERE A STORY-PICTURE OF ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN BEATEN UP. THESE THINGS ARE HAPPENING RIGHT NOW, AND WHAT I HAVE HERE IS SOME OF THEIR STORIES THEY ARE TELLING.(IT COULD BE THAT THEY DON'T TELL THE POLICE ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT THEY ARE TELLING ME. AND OTHERS, TOO)

AND, ALSO, HERE IN MY HAND I HAVE A LIST OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, 13 PAGES OF NAMES OF NATIVE PEOPLE, THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT OF KENORA--AND SOME OF THEM HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BEING BEATEN UP, AND SHOVED OFF THE DOCK--BUT NOW THESE HAVE DIED WHAT WE ARE NOW CALLING A SUDDEN, OR VIOLENT, OR AN UN-NATURAL DEATH OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS...FROM 1970 TO THE PRESENT. IT IS A PARTIAL LIST BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE FILES, THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION AS WE LIVE AND MEET WITH THE PEOPLE ON THE STREET.

EACH OF OF THESE HAVE A STORY TO TELL, COULD THEY BUT TALK AND TELL THEIR STORY. THE TWO GRANDMOTHERS WHO RECENTLY DRANK INSECT REPELLENT--RAID--WE ARE TOLD--WHY DID THEY DO THIS? WHO CARES ENOUGH TO HAVE AN INQUEST THAT SEEKS TO DETERMINE THE REAL CAUSE? IT IS NOT IN OUR NATIVE

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TRADITION TO TAKE OUR OWN LIFE. ELDERS TELL US THAT ONLY THE GREAT SPIRIT DECIDES WHEN OUR LIFE ON EARTH SHOULD END. AND NOW WE HAVE OUR ELDERS, SO MIXED UP AND DEFEATED AND ALL HOPE EXTINGUISHED, SO THAT THEY ARE, BY EXAMPLE, ...TEACHING US A NEW TRADITION.

AND IF WE HAVE LOST OUR OLDER TRADITION OF OUR ELDERS, WHAT DO WE HAVE LEFT? WHAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN?

AND, ALSO IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, WE HAVE 3 YOUNG GIRLS, ONE OF THEM JUST LAST WEEK, DYING FROM OVERDOSE. THE AGES ARE 11 AND 12 AND 14. WE ALSO HAVE A 22 YEAR OLD MOTHER FREEZING TO DEATH AND A YOUNG MAN 23 YEARS OLD, HANGING HIMSELF IN OUR JAIL=-THE 2ND TO DO SO THIS YEAR PAST, MR. JUSTICE HARTT, AND THE FOURTH IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.

AND, EVEN AS I WRITE THESE WORDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THERE IS A MAN WALKING AROUND TOWN WITH ROPE MARKS ON HIS NECK AND TELLING US THAT HE WAS STRUNG UP--ALMOST LYNCHED--AS HE WAS WALKING HOME TO HIS RESERVE.

AND WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING ABOUT ALL THIS? WE DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE DON'T SEEMTO SEE THEM CONCERNED. WE DON'T SEE THEM AROUND TOWN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS INCIDENT. WHEN WE REPORT THINGS TO THE POLICE WE GET THE BRUSH OFF. YET WHEN WE HEAR THAT A SUGGESTION IS MADE THAT PERHAPS THE POLICE COULD UNDERGO SOME "AWARENESS SESSIONS" TO GET TO KNOW US AND OUR CULTURE BETTER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR REPLY IS: "<u>WE KNOW OUR INDIANS</u>."

THEY <u>SAY</u> THAT THEY KNOW THEIR INDIANS--BUT SEEM UNABLE TO DO ANY-THING ABOUT THE UNDER-AGE KIDS BEING SERVED IN THE MANY BARS AND HOTELS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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IN FORMER TIMES WHEN SOME OF THESE CONDITIONS WERE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF AUTHORITIES, ALL THAT SEEMED TO HAPPEN WAS THAT A NEW BATCH OF SOCIAL WORKERS WAS BROUGHT IN FROM THE EAST TO STUDY US ALL OVER AGAIN. AND THE CONDITIONS CONTINUE THE SAME--AND WORSEN.

WE ARE NOW WONDERING WHERE WE ARE GOING AS A COMMUNITY. IS THIS WHAT DEVELOPMENT AND CIVILIZATION MEANS? THIS SEEMS TO BE WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES---13 TYPEWRITTEN PAGES FULL OF MOTHERS AND FATHERS, GRANDMOTHERS AND HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN AND BABIES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US....AND CAN NO LONGER SPEAK TO US.

SO I AM TRYING TO HEAR WHAT THEY ARE SAYING AND SPEAK FOR THEM. TO TELL THEIR STORY TO ALL WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR, AND TO BEG YOU TO ACT AND NOT JUST HEAR AND GO AWAY. AS WE HAVE KNOWN TO HAPPEN BEFORE--MANY TIMES, IN FACT.

WE ARE VERY ANGRY AND DISATISFIED WITH THE HAND-FULL OF INQUESTS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD FOR THESE PEOPLE. WHEN ONE IS HELD IT IS NOT THOROUGH ENOUGH. IT SEEMS THAT IT IS NOT TO SEEK THE REAL CAUSES OF THESE DEATHS, BUT MORE OF A COVER UP. "THE PERSON DRANK INSECT REPELLENT," WE ARE TOLD. OR "THE YOUNG GIRL TOOK AN OVERDOSE OF T8 PILLS". AND SO ON. DOES THAT SOUND LIKE IT'S GETTING TO THE REAL CAUSE, OR A COVER UP, LIKE I SAID BEFORE.

WE WHO WORK IN THE STREETS KNOW THAT OTHERS ARE PREPARED TO TESTIFY AT INQUESTS AND ARE NOT CALLED. AND THE INQUESTS ARE TAKEN OUT OF THE HANDS OF INDIAN PEOPLE. THE BANDS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED ARE NOT HEARD. THE INQUESTS ARE NOT HELD IN SUCH A MANNER THAT INDIAN PEOPLE KNOW OR EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. IT'S NOT FAIR AT ALL.

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ALL OF THIS IS CAUSING A LOT OF FIGHTING AMONG OUR PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY. AND WE ARE TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO FIGHT INSTEAD OF WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US.

MR. HARTT. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER THIS ONE RECOMMENDATION: IF YOU DO RECOMMEND PEOPLE BEING HIRED TO WORK AMONG US--WE WANT PEOPLE FROM AMONG US TO BE THE ONES HIRED, NOT SOMEONE FROM THE EAST OR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING OFF OF OUR MISERY.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

WARNER TROYER

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PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

Ontario

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00312
File Number

254
Exhibit Number

SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON
THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

WARNER TROYER

PRESENTED AT

Kenora on

January 17, 1978

ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
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416/965-9286

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55 BLOOR STREET WEST
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TORONTO, ONTARIO
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NOTE:

Attached to Exhibit 254 is the book by Warner Troyer entitled "No Safe Place". It could not be reproduced for publication with this submission but can be viewed at the Commission Library at 55 Bloor St. West in Toronto.

As I shall be presenting my brief to the Commission this evening following the supper break I will not impose on the Commission's patience at this time. Just a note, however, if I may, on my purposes in offering the Commission and those present at this hearing an opportunity to view video-tape of a documentary film on mercury poisoning which I wrote for the CBC in the summer and autumn of 1975:

The Commission will recall that, in November, at its hearing in Ear Falls, Dr. Harrison C. Maynard demanded to know why sensation-mongering journalists like Warner Troyer had too little interest to come back to northwest Ontario to appear before you. He also had a lot to say about mercury poisoning, most of it inaccurate. My presence here is his answer although I will want to respond to some of the learned doctor's other gratuities in my comments this evening.

My professional activities in respect of Reed Paper, the Government of Ontario and mercury poisoning in northwest Ontario have generated some suprising varieties of personal abuse. It was my distinct honour last May, for example, to share a makeshift gallows with my good friend Barney Lamm when we were both hanged in effigy at Minaki in the mistaken notion that the town crier is the man responsible for the plague. I have also been accused, by the Dryden Observer and some employees of the Kenora Tourist Bureau, among others, of being irresponsible, interested only in sensation, anxious for some obscure and evil motive to destroy the economy and people of northwest Ontario, even of having had my mind and typewriter

- and my journalistic judgement and ethics - bought and paid-for by Barney Lamm, - the favourite target of those political ostriches who take the pains, in this area, to occasionally pull their heads out of the sand long enough to slander the most convenient sacrificial goat. They would serve themselves and Onrario better, in my view, if they attended more to mercury-contaminated wall-eye and less to red-herring. I'm not going to indulge in the time-honoured political tradition of passionately defending my integrity; the allegations that I'm a paid journalistic whore are lies, of course, and probably actionable before another forum. For the rest, I'm content to be judged on 25 years' work at my trade, all of it conducted, unlike many of the smears, in public. This video-tape is one such example:

Two asides in regard to the film you're going to see:

First, it was made more than two years ago - some of the evidence described in it has been overtaken by subsequent data which indicates the situation is even more serious than seemed the case in September of 1975.

Secondly, there have been some personnel changes: The Honourable Frank Miller, whom you will shortly see agonizing over his responsibilities to the people of White Dog and Grassy Narrows, was health minister in 1975; in his new portfolio of Natural Resources his is still agonizing, not least now, perhaps, over the guests at Lake Muskoka lodges in which he has a financial interest who are also, as it is now known, being exposed to mercury contaminated lake trout. The Honourable Leo Bernier, in faithful adherence to the Peter Principle has been given a lateral promotion into the tailor-made niche, or

refuge, of Northern Affairs. Reed Paper's president in 1975, Robert Billingsley, has acceded to a company request that he seek to fulfill his destiny as a good corporate citizen in some other field of endeavour. To fairly round out that catalogue I should add that I also acceded in 1976 to a request that I seek to pursue my journalistic career somewhere other than on the CBC programme "the fifth estate", on which this film was originally broadcast.

Beyond that, I think the film speaks for itself.

Perhaps I might begin by tabling, as an exhibit, ten copies of my book, No Safe Place. As it contains a mass of documentation which no oral brief to this Commission could encompass I will presume to hope the Commission will find some opportunity to examine the closely documented record of governmental and industrial apathy, ineptitude, confusion and mismanagement it sets out.

As a journalist I am not inhibited by the political tradition that prevents admission of error, even when that error may damage other people, so I am able freely to tell you I found three factual errors in the manuscript of this book subsequent to its being locked-in by the printer; they will be corrected if sales should generate a need for further editions; in the meantime, and to set the record straight, they are as follows:

1. The manuscript states incorrectly, in a footnote, that the constituency of the Hon. George Kerr includes, rather than abuts on, the City of Hamilton.

2. Second, subsequent to the completion of the manuscript, but prior to publication of the book, - and contrary to information given my researcher and myself, a water control dam intended to protect wild rice crops at the White Dog reserve was completed and made ready for operation.

3. Thirdly, the government-operated Holst Point fishing camp is not located on Petu Lake, as suggested in the text. The fact the site was incorrectly described to me by an employee of the Ontario Department of Natural Resources does not, I fear, absolve me from checking the exact location.

The camp is, in fact, sited on the Winnipeg River. Guests at the camp generally are taken to fish in Sand Lake; and figures on mercury contamination in wall-eye and northern pike in that lake, as published by the Ontario Department of the Environment last spring, average from 150 to 200 per cent over maximum safe levels for animal or human consumption, and therefore confirm and reinforce the conclusions in the book in respect of Wolst Point Lodge. The other data referring to Wolst Point are accurate.

A word about why this Commission, established to study a proposal for the exploitation of boreal forest, should concern itself with industrial pollution, mercury contaminated fish and two small communities with citizens suffering the symptoms and dangers of Minamata Disease: With industrial and resource development as with justice, - or with the fate of a national economy, the social and political mood of the times is critical; public confidence is a major component in any successful government policy. And the experience of the past eight years in this area provides an ideal test-tube in which to study the steady erosion of public faith in both government and industry; in that sense the issue of mercury poisoning among the people of White Dog and Grassy Narrows involves all the people of Ontario and may have consequences even more tragic than those involved in the miscarriages, deaths by pneumonia, exposure, heart disease, infectious disease and alcohol-related violence, suicide and accident attributable to mercury poisoning, as you will find documented in the appendices of my book.

One might say that the Davis government of Ontario has done for public confidence in the reliability of politicians about what the Boston strangler did for door-to-door salesmen.

Emotional control is the fashion nowadays and we've come to worship the cool, unflappable personality. Moreover, people committed to seeking redress of a social problem, be they teachers, journalists or anyone else, know they risk losing all credibility if they appear strident, hysterical or polemic. But Edmund Burke noted that there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and I think we do ourselves a dis-service by giving the politicians and industrialists exclusive rights to pious statements and protestations of moral and ethical inspiration. So I propose, in this presentation, to risk a few adjectives, to confess my total and profound disgust with the failure of my government, and yours. In short, I am going to speak plainly and at the risk of leaving an impression, a correct impression, that I have some personal opinions and have endured some private agony over the obscene treatment accorded my friends at Grassy Narrows and White Dog.

There is a reason for plain speaking that goes beyond private inclination and that goes far, I think, to describe a fundamental need and purpose of this Commission. These hearings, and the reports of this Commission, have a very large educative potential for the people of Ontario. We can all learn from you and from your activities in two ways: First, through the data being presented to you; and second, through your response to that data. This Commission, if the government will attend to it, can begin the

process of restoring public belief in public men by recommending and insisting on measures to alleviate the distress of people in this are to squarely assign and compensate for the irresponsible activity which opened this Pandora's box, and to develop safeguards which will prevent more outbreaks of Minamata Disease or similar disasters in future. But I feel impelled to add, with respect, that not even this Commission will retain credibility for long unless it soon seeks and publicly attains the assurances of the Davis government that its deliberations will be heeded and its recommendations implemented. I, for one, no longer believe a government which cynically refuses to close a poisoned waterway to sports fishing, - a government which callously operates a fishing lodge at which guests are systematically exposed to the hazards of eating poisoned fish declared unfit for human or animal consumption by the government's own experts; - I no longer believe that government will have much interest, sir, in any critical or remedial recommendations you might make. If you persuaded this government, for example, to close the affected areas of the English and Wabigoon River systems to sports fishing as a gesture of good faith while you complete your work; if you persuaded this goverment to compensate the individuals whose lives and livelihoods have clearly been violated by mercury contamination and then to seek redress from the polluter, then both this commission and the government would gain immensely in public esteem. But I am not optimistic of your chances, sir, dealing with the government which, after seven years of hollering 'cop' has just settled, - out of court, - in its suit against that other noteworthy Ontario mercury polluter, Dow Chemical.

Nor can one be comfortable about the protection afforded us by a government which has consistently failed to be candid with us about this problem. Even its private utterances and subjective reflections leave one with a sense of outrage and frustration. In stating last May, for example, that he would not close these poisoned waterways to protect the area residents and visiting sports fishermen, Premier William Davis told reporters he guessed he would, in his words, "have to live with his conscience." What that meant, of course, is that the people of Grassy Narrows and White Dog are having to live with his conscience, as are all the rest of Ontario's taxpayers who are, after all, shareholders in Holst Point Lodge. Many of us find that an uncomfortable lifestyle.

It is frequently made rhetorical, political point that, in a just society, no man is truly free when one man is unjustly imprisoned; we pay lip service, too, to the principle that a civilization can best be judged by its treatment of its least advantaged citizen: Looking at the 1,200 Indians imprisoned in an economy of failure and a culture of despair imposed on them by industrial and governmental indifference and fearful for the health and lives of their children, born and unborn, one would, using those two rhetorical yardsticks, have to characterize Ontario society as a cesspool, - and acknowledge that each of us who crosses the road to avoid encountering our injured brother is a Phillistine, a hypocrite and, maybe worse, an accomplice after-the-fact in this act of social genocide-by-default. As Andrew Hamilton noted on August 4, 1735; "When our neighbour's house is on fire, we ought to take care for our own."

Its time, I think, we expanded that very healthy principle enunciated thirty years ago, at Nuremburg, - namely that all of us, not just military employees, should be bound by the notion we have a loyalty more profound than that of simple obedience to our employer. Those of us who fail to warn our fellows of the deadly assaults made on them by industry, who fail to publish available data of common danger to us, should be prosecuted as public nuisances and people criminally negligent in respect of the public welfare.

Moreover it's time we stopped assuming all industries and chemicals are innocent until proved guilty and began to require evidence-in-advance, as we do with foods and drugs, of safe operation and hazard-free substances. We can begin by remembering that governments and industries, like other simple biological organisms, are neither good nor bad, morally or ethically; like the amoeba or the DNA molecule, they have just one unquestionable motivation - survival.

We must clearly define the ground rules under which we are prepared to permit their continued existence. They are not evil, not made up of 'bad' people; but they are, in these terms, amoral and, in ethical terms, castrates.

It's that answer that I give when I am asked,more frequently than any other question, why government has permitted the mercury poisoning situation to endure without effective study and remedial action for eight years. Many people ask me whether I think government is "in the hip pocket" of industry; whether relations between the two are too close - even whether there are personal or financial ties beyond the obvious self-interest involved in swimming-with-the-main-current, whether as a local newspaper publisher or a

member of Ontario's Legislative Assembly. My answer to those questions is, "No." I don't think such imputations are helpful, nor do I think them ever likely to be borne out by factual documentation.

It's true that Richard Nixon, Francis Fox and others have helped us learn the difficult truth: That even 'good guys' tell lies, that there are very few black hats and white hats left in society, that varying shades of grey are the prevailing fashion. But I doubt the existence of financial corruption; indeed, on the record in regard to this problem, there's no need: The amount of ostentatious fumbling and monumental ineptitude, -not to mention the dedication with which our public servants, elected and appointed, have worked to avoid accepting any responsibility for anything and, with even-handed fairness, avoided assigning responsibility to anyone else, either, excepting of course the reporters who have noticed the naked emperor of the North, make it clear our industrial polluters could never dream of actually buying a better political shield than the one already in place.

So no reflective or charitable critic would accuse the Ontario Davis government of collusion or complicity with industry in respect of that government's failure to protect the lives and livelihoods of Northwest Ontario citizens assailed by lethal industrial pollution. Campaign contributions by Reed Paper, for example, as recorded in the brief period since such matters have been subject to public scrutiny, scarcely demonstrate ethics-bending support levels either for the party which forms Ontario's present government or for the current legislative member for this area. To infer other hidden or corrupt associations would be pointless. For,

despite the initial difficulty for any of us, other than students of abnormal psychology, in attempting to understand the motives behind the absence of government will to preserve the dignity and destiny of people in this area, several explanations other than simple, venal cupidity are possible. They could include any of the following, singly or in combination:

1. Profound and all-encompassing stupidity.

2. A conviction that Indian voters of this area, who clearly expressed their dis-satisfaction with a government which has abandoned them, at last May's election, poll by poll, are regarded as insignificant politically, socially and economically in the larger scheme of Ontario events.

3. An all-pervading fear, as is often common with insecure employees and also, perhaps, with minority governments, of confessing any previous failure fully to comprehend the enormity of a problem. This explanation would not, of course, explain the terminal apathy so ably demonstrated by Queen's Park inaction on this issue between the autumn of 1969 and the election returns of 1975.

4. A stubborn perversion of the Cleopatra syndrome, - in which the bearers of ill-tidings are executed and their messages ignored, - with the intention of 'punishing' all those drawing attention to this man-made disaster by refusing to deal with reality in a cynical attempt to discredit these 'messengers' by denying their evidence.

5. An utter and unremitting lack of confidence in the scientists and researchers employed by Queen's Park who have consistently described and defined the nature of the problem, this coupled with a sublime confidence, - so far entirely justified, - that these publicly-paid public guardians will generally see political loyalty to be their main priority for survival and therefore decline to warn and protect those of us who pay their salaries, if there is any risk of contradicting their masters at Queen's Park.

6. A mathematically-computed conclusion that a half-dozen small fishing camps on the affected waterways, accommodating an aggregate of perhaps 150 guests and including one operated on our behalf by the government, at Holst Point, have more intrinsic economic and political value than the dignity or the lives of twelve-hundred or so Indian residents of two small villages.

7. A subline faith in the short attention span of Ontario voters and journalists coupled with an inner assurance that most of us don't much care, really, about Indians anyway.

8. An unshakeable belief in the Divine Right of Industry.

9. A child-like hope, - common to most immature personalities and chronic bingo players and lottery plungers, - that hoping-for-the-best is a valid substitute for dealing with reality.

10. A total indifference to the suffering of a people not easily visible from the heady environs of Queen's Park.

11. A vocational aberration, fairly common among public men who have ingested too much royal jelly, that 'image' is everything so, as appearances outweigh substance, it is more than enough to speak, publicly and sincerely, of (solutions,) understanding, of course, that they need not actually be initiated or applied.

12. An ignorance, wilfull or resulting from genuine intellectual incapacity, which has persuaded the whole of the Davis cabinet that everything really is proceeding for the best in the best of all possible worlds and thereby generating the delusions-of-adequacy evident in the statements on this issue emanating from that august body.

I should add that my views are apparently more charitable than those either of my journalisitic colleagues or of the public at large. A case in point is the federal government study at Sudbury, 'leaked' to the press last month, which said: ".....many citizens in the Sudbury area had the general feeling that there is collusion taking place between Inco and Falconbridge and government officials. A look at the powerful legal remedies available... and the void in government-initiated prosecutions gives credence to this feeling."

Nor do assurances from Premier William Davis and Environment Minister George Kerr that Ontario has the best pollution control and health protection legislation in the world give rise to much confidence. Vicy France, after all, had the first good Samaritan legislation in history: and Nazi Germany had model social welfare laws. It is the will to enforce the laws,

as demonstrated by the resources and priorities assigned to them, that talks, not the bare or barren statutes. I'd like to quote, in that regard, something said by Alexis de Tocqueville in January, 1848. He said:

"It is not the mechanism of law that produces great events, but the inner spirit of government....Keep the laws as they are, if you wish...Keep the men, too, if it gives you any pleasure...But in God's name change the spirit of government for... that spirit will lead you to t he abyss."

Last May the Hon. George Kerr appeared with me on television and when I displayed a large northern pike which I said was representative of the poisoned fish of the English/Wabigoon system he accused me of sensationalism and offered to wager me a bottle of scotch (that the) fish, taken from that system 48 hours earlier, was safe to eat. I subsequently had it tested by a respected laboratory whose report I can make available to the Hon. Minister. It gives me no great pleasure to inform him, through you, that the fish contained over five times the maximum safe level of mercury and that he owes me a bottle of malt scotch. However, since his wager was apparently made in a spirit of bravado for its effect on the press covering his TV appearance on that day, it's fair the test results should be made publicly available. Fair, too, to note the way our public representatives have used truculence, half-truth and mis-direction to confuse the press and, through them, the public:

When a possible case of congenital Minamata Disease was located in March, 1976, for example, Dr. Betty Stephensen, then acting Health Minister, told Queen's Park reporters the description

of the boy as a possible victim of congenital Minamata Disease was irresponsible since, first, he had a very low mercury blood level at age five and, second, he was a victim of cerebral palsy. The Hon. Minister, a former president of the Canadian Medical Association, failed to add that,a) The child had been institutionalized for more than two years so that, having eaten no contaminated fish during that time, any high blood mercury levels at birth or before would long since have disappeared or, b) that 'cerebral palsy' is a grab-bag medical description for any brain damage occuring shortly before or after birth, - a precise though simple description of congenital Minamata Disease. Such deceits-by-deletion may temporarily confuse the public; their long term effect can only be to further erode public respect for public figures. If cabinet ministers are going to function as "hit men," voters have a right to expect that such lethal activities be conducted to protect public health rather then protecting industrial, political or bureaucratic sensibilities.

Last December 8, Dr. Stephenson, now Ontario's Labour Minister, was again generating scepticism in respect of her candor when, in denying reports that a definite case of Minamata Disease had been diagnosed from among 28 brain and organ tissue samples studied by the government she told the Ontario Legislature..'no evidence' of mercury poisoning had been found; however Dr. Stephenson mentioned only 22 samples, not the 28 described in news reports. She gave no data on the six other samples. Nor did she disclose or describe the fact that closer to 50 than 22 post mortem

tissue samples have been collected from Grassy Narrows and White Dog area by the government. Nor did Dr. Stephenson, in 'skipping' those 20 or 30 unreported samples say what results were obtained from them. Dr. Stephenson might have told the Legislature that no test results are yet available from even one of the brain tissue samples collected in all of 1977; she did not. Dr. Stephenson might have said the post mortem tests were made, not on individuals most likely to have been exposed to mercury poisoning, but merely on those who were 'handiest' the tissue samples were collected almost exclusively from cadavers which were already 'coroner's cases' because of violent or accidental death. She did not. Dr. Stephenson might have said that the government's desultory test program was not even begun until late 1975, six years after the dangers were known. She might have revealed reports, inside her department, that the single pathologist who has operated the programme since August 1975, Dr. Lesbia Smith, is unlikely to be replaced following her departure from the government service last December 9. Sources close to the programme say it may be allowed to end because of a 'political decision.' She divulged none of these data. Dr. Stephenson did deny, vehemently, allegations that a first report on the tests she revealed, - only those done in 1976 - another piece of data she witheld - had been suppressed because it identied a Minamata Disease victim. There had not been two reports, said the Labour Minister; what there had been were 'two drafts of the report to date.' Meanwhile her colleague, the Hon. George Kerr, was reported playing at, "shoot-the-messenger" and in that same week in December

is said to have personally interrogated and berated upwards of twenty of his own Environment Department officials in efforts to plug press leaks in that organization. Neither Dr. Stephenson's righteous indignation nor Mr. Kerr's angry, not to say frantic, witch-hunt serves to encourage public confort in the credibility of the most recent fragments of government data on mercury poisoning. But public and private tantrums by members of our cabinet do serve one squalid cause: As with a stage magician's theatrical gestures, they help mis-direct our attention from what's really going on. In Mr. Kerr's internal tirades against his staff as in Dr. Stephenson's noisy and self-righteous indignation with reporters and opposition critics one may easily see living examples of the injunction scribbled in the margin of his sermon notes by the aging parson: "Point weak, Pound pulpit."

A major reason for the government's ability to duck both reality and responsibility is the cynically encouraged confusion over the nature and extent of the hazard created by mercury pollution. Fortunately for those who wish to see the record both straight and clear, government apologists tend to be less than models of either penetrating intelligence or diligent research. One might refer to the then federal minister of Health the Hon. John Munro's remark to a colleague that there was reason to believe Indians had a higher tolerance for mercury poisoning than whites, - or to the Hon. Leo Bernier's characterization of the world's leading and most experienced scientists in respect of Minamata Disease, the Japanese who visited Canada, as a "bunch of travelling troubadors." I might refer all of them to Dr. Dennis Wheatley, the

man in charge of the Ottawa health department efforts in this field for the past 5 years, who stated publicly and for the record, last May, that in his view there was no longer any question about the definite presence of Minamata Disease among Indians at White Dog and Grassy Narrows. Paradoxically, although Ontario Resources Minister, the Hon. George Kerr, was present on that occasion, and went so far himself as to recommend closing of the affected river systems to sports fishing, he has failed, since, to persuade his cabinet colleagues of the validity of either of these points of view. One is moved to speculate, given the further evidence of Leo Bernier's very bulky brief to this commission, that the cabinet communicates rather poorly at Queen's Park and thus finds it necessary to seek outside forums of this sort to engage the attention of the Premier of Ontario.

One of the least apt of all government/industry apologists I've had the sadness of encountering to date was the estimable Dr. Maynard who had the courtesy to introduce me to this commission in spirit, at least, as a part of his presentation in Far Falls last November. One might say that neither industry nor government, with friends like that, have much need of critics. I'd like to deal briefly with some of the more underwhelming aspects of the good doctor's presentation, - partly because he disputes data gathered by me for the book I've placed before you as an exhibit, partly through my simple anxiety that the educative value of this commission's hearings not be blatantly distorted or perverted through the mis-statement of fact. In regard to mercury and mercury poisoning, I will attempt to demonstrate that any relationship between Dr. Maynard's presentation and the truth was, at best, coincidental:

As Senator Hiram Johnson told the U.S. Congress in 1917, "When war comes, truth is the first casualty." And the Ontario government, in company with its claque of apologists on this issue, insists on treating the matter as a political war rather than an urgent public responsibility to safeguard Ontario lives.

Dr. Maynard's oral and written submissions to this Commission amply illustrate the perfectly understandable conclusion that the training and experience of the average GP do not encourage research disciplines or skills. I doubt, for instance, that Dr. Maynard deliberately sought to offend my family by dropping the last two letters from my name. I did do some research on the good doctor who so proudly told this commission he and his wife were both fourth generation Canadians. The fact that I am a ninth generation Canadian, descended from Dr. John Troyer, who was the first homesteader of Upper Canada, as it was then, fills me with vast amusement when I speak with my Ojibway friends whose people were here when my forebears, and those of Dr. Maynard, still thought they'd fall off the edge of the earth if they sailed too far. Sometimes I wonder how far some scientists have progressed since then.

The Commission will be happy to know that a scrutiny of Dr. Maynard's professional career, from his graduation in Alberta in 1953, through his employment in the emergency ward of the Hamilton General Hospital 12 years later until his current two-part practice, divided, -as it is - between Ear Falls and Florida, is a clean sheet: Almost a blank sheet, one might say, with no single disciplinary blemish or special notice evident. As a member of the

"courtesy staff," of the Hamilton General from 1967 until 1973, for example, - the third highest grade of hospital privilege offered there, Dr. Maynard had full and respected rights to admit his medical patients although, as he is not a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, he had no operating privileges, a fact possibly unknown to the dog who was, as he told you, his first surgical patient after his arrival, in 1974, in Far Falls.

Dr. Maynard does not, of course, have any specialist qualifications. Insofar as his medical colleagues can ascertain, he has no experience, practical or academic, in the fields of industrial medicine, chemistry or toxicology. Accordingly, his views on mercury and mercury poisoning were variously described during research interviews with some of his professional peers as, "insubstantial," "irrelevant," and, "lightweight."

Some examples, if I may presume:

1. Dr. Maynard told you that mercury, "usually found in liquid form...virtually anywhere...being heavy and liquid runs from mountain tops to low places." Not true. Mercury, in the natural state, is imprisoned in cinnabar ore and can be extracted or recovered only by temperatures higher than 357.3 degrees centigrade, as a vapour, which is then condensed or distilled to capture the heavy, liquid metal. Where there is little oxygen, as in underground and river-bottom geological formations from which mercury is supposed to "seek its way," his words, into our environment, the vapourization would require temperatures above 500 degrees centigrade.

2. Said Dr. Maynard: "Hot air is much more damaging

than mercury." Hard to credit, since oxidized mercury, or mercuric chloride, will kill in doses as low as one-quarter of a gram; as Dr. Maynard would know, it would require 113 lethal doses of that size to make up a single ounce of mercury. Scarcely harmless. The fact that mercuric chloride was the most common vehicle of suicide in the U.S. before the availability of barbiturates effectively deals with Dr. Maynard's suggestion that, "a medical profession would not endorse the presence of a pollutant in a thermometer which we put in people's mouths every day." One assumes most physicians do not expect their patients to bite through their fever thermometer and then cheerfully swallow its contents.

3. Dr. Maynard continually stresses that mercury, "is harmless as a natural element." Not much consolation, that, to the literally thousands of miners who died in agony from mercury poisoning in Spain and in Peru in the course of extracting that "harmless natural element" from nature.

4. "All the fish in the oceans virtually contain in their livers some amount of mercury" says the good doctor, and he adds, "but mercury in this form as an element is harmless, both to the fish and to those who eat them."

An altogether wildly inaccurate diagnosis, unhappily. Firstly, mercury "as an element," is, quite simply, a poison. Second, fish concentrate mercury in their muscle, the fillets we eat, not in their livers. It is we mammals who concentrate mercury in our organs. Thirdly, the Dr. totally ignores the bacterial process by which metallic or elemental mercury in water systems is transformed into the infinitely more deadly organic,

methyl mercury before being taken up by the aquatic food chain.

5. Dr. Maynard has, he told you, "yet to see any documented case of Minamata Disease." Nor is he likely so to do, unless he moves his practice from Bar Falls and Florida to Grassy Narrows and White Dog, - or to Minamata. Or, heavens forbid, unless some of his current patients are moved to believe his incredible description of our "perfectly clean Atlantic tuna," and dine regularly on that fish. Should that happen Dr. Maynard will very likely both see and document some cases of Minamata Disease, should he be able to recognize ther.

6. A final point in respect of Dr. Maynard's testimony: Since he told you, and thereby the public, that I have, in his words, "written a book and capitalized upon the royalties thereof," I would like to say this, for the record: a) I have not yet had five cents in royalties from No Safe Place. b) I have had no compensation for the year of my time, a year of 70 and 80 hour work weeks, which I devoted to the book. c) My out-of-pocket research costs for the book totalled between sixteen-thousand and eighteen-thousand dollars as measured against a publisher's advance of one-thousand dollars and an Ontario Arts Council grant of three-thousand dollars. My net cash loss, therefore, has been between twelve-thousand and fourteen-thousand dollars, exclusive of my year of labour. If all of the copies of the book now in print are sold I expect to recover a substantial fraction of my cash outlay, in devalued 1978 dollars, not the 1975 dollars I spent; I do not expect ever to make a cent in compensation for my time and work. I think it is also fair to tell this commission, because I feel

no shame in this matter, that my present personal financial circumstances have been very severly and adversely affected by the fact I did not seek or undertake regular employment and income while I was writing the book. I have no complaint about that. I agree with Dr. Maynard that human misery is a shabby and degrading tool for the enrichment of anyone. I expect most physicians would agree with him, and with me, on that score.

However I have nothing but contempt for the description by a man who has made no such comittments, of Dr. Peter Newberry, a fine physician who lived with the people of Grassy Narrows and shared their hardships and austere lifestyle for two years, - and who literally saved God knows how many lives and prevented immeasurable suffering, - as I say, I have nothing but contempt for a professional colleague who would, in a written submission to this Commission, describe that decent, skilled and gentle man as, "a medical doctor, I use the word loosely..."

As for Dr. Maynard's charge that my "efforts," in this matter have been, like those of other journalists whom he mistrusts, "to do with their own well being," - it makes one to laugh.

Now I know, Mr. Commissioner, that the head will not absorb what the seat will not endure. I've no wish to lower your pain threshold and so I shall finish quickly. There are just two further points to be very briefly made:

There is, first, the suggestion that people who have pointed out the nature of the mercury problem are hurting all of Northwest Ontario, penalizing the innocent by giving the area a "bad name." It is, Sir, mercury contamination which is the agent of evil tidings, not the reporters of its existence. And

the innocent would immediately begin to be spared if the government closed the affected waterways to sports fishing. Then anyone wishing to holiday and fish in this area could know that, in any waters on which they were allowed to fish, they were safe from the crippling killer we know as Minamata Disease. Of course sports fishermen who have learned they are not being warned of dangers where they are known by government to exist will shy away from any associated area. People of this area whose livelihoods are being hurt should direct their anger at Queen's Park, not at the editorial rooms of Ontario. It is government that has been too weak to resolve the problem. Edmund Burke was never more clearly proved right than in this situation when he told the British Parliament that, "Nothing turns out to be so oppressive and unjust as a feeble government."

Secondly, and finally, Sir, there are the charges that the people of White Dog and Grassy Narrows lack enterprise and initiative, that they have little interest in solving their own problems. They are well able to speak for themselves; they don't need my feeble endorsement as to their dedication or their energy. But, Sir, they have had eight years of literal terror in this matter. Even if the federal government proceeds with an epidemiological survey now planned they'll see no report, let alone action, in less than three years more; they have been warned to expect no results from your deliberations, Sir, for eighteen months or longer; their history is one of hope postponed - of frustration and delay. Even the necessary cancellation of your hearings here last month was another blow to morale and expectation. For the Ojibway people,

political lip service to the theory that justice delayed is justice denied is only a PR slogan. Dr. Samuel Johnson put it well, Sir. He said, "Where there is no hope, there can be no endeavour."

The Ojibway have been attending meetings, listening to counselling on the virtues of patience and moderation for over 200 years, since before Burke noted that, "Good men do not suspect that their destruction is attempted through their virtues."

If I have taken too much of the Commission's time I would apologize. I would also repeat that the people of Grassy Narrows and White Dog have been waiting and listening, now, for eight years. They are, with all of us, everywhere in Ontario, waiting to discover what this Commission will be able to reveal of the government's priorities. We want to know whether this government means (to protect) the lives and futures of its people or simply the maintenance of the status quo and the avoidance of political embarrassment. That will be the definitive test, Sir. For, as another man said, speaking to a multitude almost two-thousand years ago:

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Thank you, Sir, for your patience, for your attention, and for the devotion, skill and intelligence with which I believe this Commission will discharge its heavy mandate. Thank you.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

THE ONTARIO METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

00313
File Number

255
Exhibit Number

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ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT
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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

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from

ONTARIO METIS AND NON-STATUS

INDIAN ASSOCIATION

SUBMISSION OF

ZONE 1 OF THE ONTARIO METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION

TO THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

KENORA, ONTARIO
JANUARY 17, 1978

Your Honour, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Brenda Prouty and I am a member of the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association. I am pleased to speak today for the Metis and Non-Status Indian people of Zone 1 of the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association. Most of our people don't know much about this Commission as yet. What we do know, most definitely, is the effect of the economy on our lives. We have decided to present this brief in order to introduce our people to your Inquiry, to tell you who we are, and why we believe it is important for us to have a voice in these proceedings over the next few years.

The Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association is made up of five Zones. I am speaking for our people in Zone 1. This covers the area bounded by Raith in the east, as far west as the Manitoba border; and, from the U.S. border in the south to as far north as Metis and Non-Status Indian people live. In other words, the area covered by Treaty # 3 and the Western area of Treaty # 9.

There are differences between our local organizations in this area. Some speak English as a first language; others speak Ojibway. Some of us have formal education; others very little or none. Some of us have decent houses; most of us don't. Some of us have stable jobs; most of us try to exist on the edge of the labour market.

But even with this variety, we find that the problems facing Metis and Non-Status Indian people are the same throughout this area of Zone 1.

You will notice that I speak for our people both north and south of the 50th parallel. If trees are cut north of Red Lake and a new mill built at Ear Falls, our people around the Dryden area will live with the effects. We don't recognize this imaginary line at the 50th. Is it an attempt to lump Kenora, Vermilion Bay, Dryden, and Dinorwic with Toronto as opposed to Red Lake and Sioux Lookout?

This has been one of our major problems in the past: too many people drawing imaginary lines through our lives. We are here today, as a group, because of these imaginary divisions someone drew down east some years ago.

Let me tell you how these lines have crossed the lives of Non-Status Indian people. It is a strange definition of a man or a woman: a Non-Status Indian. As defined by a dictionary, this means an Indian with, and I quote, no position in relation to other people, end of quote. We could say this is an Indian but not an Indian; a non-Indian Indian. Could you imagine explaining or trying to explain to your children who they are as people with that label? But it is true. Non-Status Indian people are Indian people who are not recognized as Indian people by law. They have no rights to their birthright as the first people of this land.

This imaginary line has crossed Non-Status Indians' lives in different ways. Some of our ancestors just did not get on the Treaty list when it was finalized. Others refused to sign as it meant accepting the European view that the land could be sold or signed over. They knew it was not a 'thing' owned by people. The land was the land and the people belonged to it.

Some families were in Treaty at some time in the past but they got lost. Perhaps a secretary got tired of typing; possibly the pen ran out of ink at that point, and suddenly they were Indian but not Indian.

In other cases the line was more consciously drawn. You know that Canadian Indians became citizens in the 1920's but they did not get the vote and the right to buy alcohol until much later, in the 1950's. Before they had these rights some of our people 'enfranchised' themselves 'out of treaty.' I think you would agree that the phrase "enfranchised out of treaty" is a mindbender. We know that when you enfranchise yourself you gain citizenship, or you are freed and liberated from slavery. With Indian people this 'slavery' or treaty status is also their birthright. So this so-called 'liberation,' or enfranchisement, meant that we had to loose all rights as Native people. This is the opposite of liberation.

After many of our men returned from active duty in the Services in the Second World War, they enfranchised themselves so they could have full rights as citizens.

With other people, poverty led to alcohol abuse. They left treaty because of their addiction, to have the privilege of buying alcohol or sitting in a bar to drink it. It was very expensive booze. And for many years now everyone has had this dubious honour of buying alcohol.

The most touching illustration in our personal catalogue of how our people lost their birthrights is of our women who married non-treaty husbands and automatically became non-Indians themselves. By doing this their children were not born out of wedlock -- they were not bastards -- merely non-Indians. Over the years this has placed women in an extremely difficult position: a legal and a moral catch 22.

For these reasons and others Non-Status Indian people crossed, or were pushed across that imaginary line and became tenants in the land of their forefathers: people without a place. And I am not just speaking metaphorically. Many of those pictures of the homeless in Nancy Morrison's photo album show Non-Status Indian people, just as she is herself.

Our group represents both the Metis and the Non-Status Indian people. You might say we're different hues of the same shade. At each extreme it appears like two colours, but most of us are somewhere in between.

We Metis are the halfbreeds. We are the social development which resulted from the first economic developments in this area. The Metis are proof that there has been some secondary industry in this area in the past.

The Metis were so well established along the Rainy River in 1873 that they were instrumental in bringing about Treaty # 3. Government had to negotiate to also include them in the Treaty. Stuck in the back of your copy of the Treaty you will find the 'Half-breed Adhesion.' In effect this Adhesion created Status-Indian Metis people around Fort Frances. So we have also Status-Indian Metis people and Non-Status Indian Metis people in this area. We represent the Non-Status Metis, if you will.

When we were preparing this brief we asked each other "Who are you?" One of our members said 'Well, if someone asked me, "Are you an Indian?" I would say, "Yes, I <u>am</u> an Indian with no reservation." One elder said, "We are a people in the middle" and his son replied "Yes, in the middle of nowhere." The clearest explanation came from one woman when she said "We are little people." She was not referring to size, as you must realize after several monthis in the North, but to the lack of any political or economic power, held or exercised by the Metis and Non-Status Indian people in this region.

Whether we are Status, Non-Status, or Metis our lives are still defined by that first and most destructive imaginary line -- the line of racism. This is the hardest to live across. We will only erase it as we begin to participate meaningfully in the development and economy of our land.

The Metis and Non-Status Indian people are interested in living in stable communities, in ensuring long-term satisfying work, and in being able to provide the necessities of life for our families: decent housing, education, food and other basics. We are not a transient population. Most of us prefer to live in our small communities and most of us prefer to work out of doors on the land. It is through this kind of life that we maintain our values as people and pass them on to our children. We do no think this is asking too much. We want no more than what every individual should have for a meaningful and happy life.

But that standard is not often attained. We are the working poor and the unemployed. One member has joked that our poverty itself has become an important natural resource: alcohol and alcoholism are a significant source of revenue and employment in Northwestern Ontario.

In many cases we stay poor because we are constantly squeezed out of jobs as we don't have formal education, and we are Indian. But where are the meaningful adult education programmes? In Thunder Bay, Toronto, Winnipeg? Immigrants coming to Toronto are introduced to a variety of courses to help them adjust and establish themselves in the society and economy of Ontario. Should the person from Pikangicum coming to Red Lake apply from outside of the country to learn English and basic town life skills? These are very serious questions about the society we live in.

Some of our people have been cutting trees in the bush for years and today they cannot afford to buy the lumber to build a small house when they also have to buy a small piece of land to put it on. Before we often built on unorganized land. Today, government policy does not allow this right.

In practice, the existing O.H.C. rental projects are often rented to people with far higher incomes than most of our people without housing possess. The Ontario Rural and Native Housing Programme's criteria do not allow <u>that</u> programme in communities of over 2500 in population or where the Ontario Housing Corporation has, or plans, a project. There is an urgent need for flexibility in the criteria of these agencies to meet regional needs so that people have somewhere to live.

That group of our people who are fortunate to have jobs works manily in the bush and in the mills; or they guide, commercial-

fish or trap; and we supplement our incomes with wild rice-picking and hunting. In all of these areas we are being pushed out.

In the bush there has been a steady decline of the small third party contractors -- the independent cutters on contract to the mills. In some cases this is because of union agreements, in others because these contractors cannot get decent timber limits from the Ministry of Natural Resources. This means we must now work mainly for the big companies. For some of our people this is satisfactory. But the loss of small independent contractors means it is increasingly difficult for an individual or group to set up by themselves. It means there is a loss of flexibility in bush employment. Many of our people require flexibility during that period when they are trying to establish themselves in the labour market. The big companies are too big to allow this.

Even those who work for the big companies in the bush have to worry because of the increasing mechanization. In most cases we don't have formal education -- we have skills and experience and these are not necessarily recognized. In some areas we see that the new machines break down often and in the end don't seem to cut more wood than the other crews. But we realize the machines can be written off for depreciation and a man's livelihood cannot.

Guiding has always been a major seasonal activity: in the summer for fish and in the fall for game. Today there are many policies and practices which are working us out of jobs. On the one hand the government encourages non-resident campers through the development of parks, the practice of keeping and maintaining old logging roads (these were formerly closed when no longer needed by the companies), the lack of restrictions on the issue of non-resident fishing licences, and the lack of encouragement for the use of guides' services and equipment for hunting and fishing by non-residents. These non-resident campers on the other hand contribute nothing to our economy and they are often blatant exploiters of our fish and wildlife. Game wardens are in an understaffed group. At the south end of the Lake of the Woods American outfitters are even operating day cruisers in Canadian waters from the American side of the Lake. This is seriously affecting our employment at lodges in that area.

Commercial fishing on the Lake of the Woods supports some of our families near Morson. Today a government plan to impose quotas on fishermen's catches of sports fish species will force most commercial fishermen out of business. We all know the Lake is

like a garden: if the weeds are not controlled the vegetables are soon choked out. How are the cull fish, the Lake's weeds, to be controlled without commercial fishing. What will happen to the sports fishing in the long-term if the fish balance is not maintained? And what employment is available for our former fishermen?

Another government policy currently proposes to open up the wild-rice harvest as the 'potential' of the harvest has supposedly never been realized. True it hasn't, if our minds are focused on maximum exploitation and mechanization. But that potential has been there for hundreds, maybe thousands of years and it should be developed for the benefit of Native peoples of the region. There are dangers in hasty, new policies especially when they contain the seed for the monopoly control of this resource and will inevitably remove control and benefits from Native people.

As people of Native ancestry whose livelihood and future depend on the land, we have a stake in the conservation and in the proper management of our resources into the future. If reforestation is behind we'll be out of work in the future. If the game laws are blatantly ignored we won't have meat on our table some year.

This interest is in contrast to the interest of many investors and policy makers. As one of our members has said "those influential people who make these policies don't have to live with them." Many of our people will point out to you that outside investors, whether large or small do not have the same committment to the region as the people who live here.

You are investigating the effects of economic development in order to map a plan for the future, our future. Development means improvement. We must ensure that new economic developments occur with the participation of the people of the region and benefit the people of the region; we must give encouragement to local initiatives, especially where they lead to a diversification of the economy; we must see that checks are maintained on outside investors so they do not conflict with the long-term interests of the region; and we must be prepared to seriously assess the social, as well as economic, costs of new developments. Was the loss of the Wabigoon and lower English Rivers possibly too high a cost to pay? Can we afford to have this happen again?

And this brings us to your Inquiry which we believe must also

become ours. We have heard you say that you are not certain if you should continue - if this is the best means to develop a plan for future economic developments. You may be right. But recognize many of us have been going in circles for years, some of it downhill, and this is our first forum, not only to tell you of our experiences but also to have our complaints publicly aired. If they are valid they will stand. If they are not we might learn why.

In conclusion, as Metis and Non-Status Indian people from Northwestern Ontario we have a responsibility to involve ourselves with this Commission for two reasons. First, as a people our investment is tied up in this area and in our communities, and the return on our investment, the present and future condition of our lives and those of our children in this area will always be largely determined by the nature and direction of economic development. Secondly, we have a responsibility as Metis and Non-Status Indian people with roots in both Native and non-Native cultures in this area to relate the history of our experiences with past and current developments. In many communities our people are the living disjuncture between economic and social development in this region: as a group we represent objective data for the Inquiry. We will look forward to our next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We strongly support the continuation of this Inquiry and urge the government of Ontario to maintain adequate financing of the Inquiry so that it may successfully complete its mandate by ensuring the participation through funding of public interest groups.

2. We recommend that you be prepared to meet with Metis and Non-Status Indian people and other local Northern residents not represented through large organizations. This is the only way for your Inquiry to fully understand the effects of economic development on lives of the people directly affected. This is the only way you will be able to understand the roots of this polarization you have spoken of in the press.

3. In order for us to become involved, the people of our locals must be given the opportunity to prepare themselves through seminars and workshops, and this will require financial support. We ask your Commission to be prepared to send staff, either from the North or with Northern experience, to meet with our locals to explain the purposes and process of the Inquiry.

4. When you meet with us, the presentations will be oral. You will hear what you need to know only if these meetings are small, informal, and friendly, without a large group of outsiders. People in small communities of Native background are shy and hesitant to speak before a large group of outsiders. So that meetings will not be effectively ended before they even begin, we recommend that a satisfactory procedure be developed so that the interests of outside press and others can be accommodated without ruining the purpose of these meetings in small communities.

5. We are pleased with the Wawatay reporting of the hearings and consider the support of the Commission well spent. We are pleased to hear that information is being made available through public libraries. In smaller communities it should be sent to the municipal offices. We recommend that copies of major briefs and submissions be sent out later to these sources.

6. We recommend that the office of the Commission be located in a northern city and that you either install a Zenith number or arrange for information offices in different towns. For the Commission to become effective it must operate with flexibility and avoid red tape and bureaucratic rigidity. We urge you to become publicly visible in the North and Northwest.

7. In view of the fact that you are preparing a plan for future development, we strongly recommend that a moratorium be placed on new proposals for development until your work is completed, and that proposals already under discussion, such as the Reed expansion, be covered under your mandate. If new projects are

going ahead, we would ask that your Commission study each in detail and issue your findings through special interim reports so that these projects do not nullify the purposes of the Inquiry.

8. It is imperative that this moratorium extend to changes in government policy affecting natural resources, such as the proposed changes in the Wild Rice Harvesting Act and the proposed quotas on commercial fishermen on the Lake of the Woods until these issues can be studied by your Commission and developed in light of the participation of the people of this area through your recommendations.

9. It is important this Commission maintain its credibility and objectivity. We are concerned on one level because there is not a great deal of scientific material describing our land, resources and people, and those studies which do exist have often been prepared to facilitate the kinds of economic development or policies which made your Inquiry necessary in the first place.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

TOWN OF KEEWATIN

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

ON

JANUARY 17, 1978

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ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE NORTHERN
ENVIRONMENT

THE HON. MR. JUSTICE
E. P. HARTT
COMMISSIONER

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on

January 17, 1978

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S U B M I S S I O N

presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIROMENT

from

TOWN OF KEEWATIN

No. 256

256

Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Town of Keewatin
this 17 day of Jan 1978

B R I E F

TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by:

Town of Keewatin

To: Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt

The Municipal Council of the Town of Keewatin and its citizens, extend our welcome to the beautiful Lake of the Woods area. We are gratified by the Commission's decision to extend its hearings to this region.

Keewatin is a small community of less than 1900 people, which historically depended on major industry and development for its existence. In the past, a substantial amount of the direct commercial base was dependent on the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited operations, along with its many working employees, were responsible for a major share of the necessary property taxes. This area, and in particular, Keewatin, has had a very enviable record of employment and achievement during the past century. In an economic climate, where many industries are having difficulty surviving, and indeed where industries have, through massive lay-offs, affected the lives of thousands, it is imperative that full support by all residents deriving economic benefits, be voiced. Our Council joins the community in this support.

The Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper mill is, for many, their very existence. It is evident that our local mill has, in recent years, shown real concern over the ensured supply of wood for producing paper. We witness, on a daily basis, the many vehicles required to transport wood from great distances. Our community depends on the timber for our very livelihood. It must continue! The proper management of our environment and, in particular, the forests, is imperative. All people of Ontario should expect and accept nothing less than proper policies which will enable a large degree of stability and permanence.

The views of all people concerned with conservation and environment, are most important. While many groups are very vocal in their views, it is our position that the duly elected are charged with the responsibility to ensure that the majority views are recognized and acted upon.

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No one group or segment should be allowed to dictate the terms of any future development. Let the elected governments get on with making proper decisions on our behalf.

The very process of gathering information is indeed a costly one. Whether governments use Royal Commissions or government agencies as a vehicle, once all of the relative information is collated, our Council supports greater government action. What must not be allowed to happen is that well-organized groups unduly influence, positively or negatively, necessary government action.

Our municipalities have viewed, with great interest, the various accounts of past briefs given. Many of the problems expressed are similar in nature to those we, as municipal officials, bring to government attention for action. We would like to take this opportunity to express to all citizens that there are mechanisms in place to express citizen concerns. Municipal councils are prepared to assist individuals or groups who identify bonafide problems.

Earlier this year, our Council passed a resolution specifically indicating that we did not support the Atikaki Wilderness Park. We stated our views publicly, in order to indicate to all that a proposal of this magnitude, which would affect us profoundly, had proceeded to the point where local councils responded after the fact. Proposals which do affect our immediate area, would find greater acceptance if full disclosure and consultation procedures were adopted.

In Northwestern Ontario and, Keewatin in particular, both Federal and Provincial governments must clarify their position when it comes to jurisdicational responsibility pertaining to native people. Many communities are placed in an untenable position of dealing with native problems on an ad hoc basis. We share the Municipal Advisory Committee's view that the singling out of natives for particular attention, is a racial one. This approach by government can only contribute to greater division of Northwestern Ontario. Our view is that both provincial and federal governments should address themselves to all citizens living within municipal borders. A common comment amongst municipal officials is that we do not have enough information or facts to make valid comparisons.

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Citizens comment on various programs given to natives, without possessing factual information. At a time in our economic history, when financial accountability, proper management, and stability are imperative, all governments must realize their responsibilities to the public. We do not suggest that governments are providing services or attention to Natives at the expense of the Non-native community. To accomplish a planned and orderly community, our Council recognizes that a vehicle for communication is necessary. It is recognized that the social and economic circumstances of natives are a serious community problem. As an elected Council, we hope Federal and Provincial governments will recognize that total involvement by all will assist us in addressing ourselves to the very real problems of all Keewatin citizens. Services must continue to be delivered on the basis of need. High on our list is a desire to create an atmosphere of trust in all of our dealings with government and our citizens.

Our Council has in the past actively taken part in its parent organization, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. We support the Brief by N.O.M.A. Members of Council have individual concerns, but in particular, one concern we have is that Northwestern Ontario may become a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Why has there been no direct government contact with concerned municipal organizations?

The Town of Keewatin's Council favors development which allows all men to participate equally. Social development is a very necessary concomitant. Just as the natural resources belong to Ontario, let us not lose sight of the fact that the Environment is of vital concern to every Ontario resident.

This is one Royal Commission that the Ontario Government must be prepared to act on.

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SUBMISSION TO

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

BY

TOWN OF KEEWATIN - TOWNSHIP OF JAFFRAY & MELICK

PRESENTED AT

KENORA, ONTARIO

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presented to

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE

NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

from

TOWN OF KEEWATIN TOWNSHIP OF JAFFRAY & MELICK

No. 257
Royal Commission on the Northern Environment
This exhibit is produced by
Town of Keewatin
Twp. of Jaffray & Melick
this 17 day of Jan 1978

B R I E F

T O

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Submitted By:

Town of Keewatin Township of Jaffray & Melick

To: Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt

The Municipality of Keewatin and the Township of Jaffray and Melick representing approximately 5,500 citizens, are extremely pleased to have this opportunity to present our views to the Royal Commission on Northern Environment. We can fully empathize with the enormity of your task, because we, in this area, frequently have our difficulties in reaching a concensus on common problems. We extend a warm welcome to the Commission and hope our contribution will assist in achieving a better understanding for all. While strong specific viewpoints exist in each separate municipality, nevertheless, Keewatin and Jaffray & Melick Councils remain strongly united in a common front of Northwestern Ontario concerns. We have collectively chosen to present our views in abridged form, in order to make our initial brief as straightforward as possible.

1. We, as members of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, fully support and endorse the positions outlined in the Brief to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. We are in agreement with the Economic, Financial, Social, Cultural, and Environmental views, respectfully submitted by our parent municipal organization, N.O.M.A.

2. Central to our concern is full support for our major industries and in particular, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited. This, our prime industry, is essential to our very existence.

3. Therefore, our area is dependent upon a sufficient supply of wood, now and in the future. Planned strategies should encourage perpetual forest resources.

4. Proper handling of all timber resources must be the responsibility of both private industry and government. All citizens of Northwestern Ontario should not willingly accept anything less.

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5. Councils are constantly concerned and frustrated by the major decisions which are made from a distance, and in an arbitrary manner. All matters of public concern to our citizens should be properly channelled through the elected councils. No one group should be allowed to unduly influence, negatively or positively, the majorities' right to a secure and prosperous future.

6. The single purpose Wilderness Park Concept proposed in the case of the Atikaki Park, aroused swift and strong opposition from our councils. Proposals by special interest groups outside this area, which affect all of us, must recognize that"meaningful participation" is absolutely essential. Local elected councils should not be placed in a position of reacting to proposals after the fact.

7. We endorse the Municipal Advisory Committees view that we all recognize the very real social and economic problems faced by our native peoples. The elected councils, who must deal directly each day with these matters, strongly recommend that Provincial and Federal authorities attack these problems in a much more realistic manner. The present system is eroding any rapport which had been established between our native peoples and the rest of the community. It is our genuine desire to build greater trust between the native peoples and the municipalities of this area.

8. There is a general concern that government accounting procedures have led many to believe that financial accountability from all groups is completely lacking. We believe this is causing serious concern among our citizens as they view government agencies, councils, bands, and organizations from a distance. Financial accountability is a must for all concerned.

9. Industrial development is vital to the continuing growth and prosperity of this area. Social and Cultural development is a very necessary concomitant. Development and the Environment are both of vital concern to each and every citizen of Ontario.

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10. The potential for beneficial development 'North of 50' is limitless. While it is recognized that local inhabitants are most affected, let us not lose sight that potential resources belong to all Ontario citizens. Conversely, we all share similar environmental and ecological concerns.

May the Government of Ontario, upon receiving your final report, from Northwestern Ontario citizens,act in such a manner as to show that they truly understand the very nature of our area, relative to the environment and development.

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